THURSDAY 4 JANUARY 1996

WHAT DRIVES A PEACE-LOVING MAN TO KILL? Section Two, page 2



FIVE AND A CAR SAIL TO FRANCE FOR £10

See page 20 for token



Prunie quits United

Police patrols to be armed with CS gas

JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

Police patrol officers are expected to be armed with CS gas sprays by the summer as part of a national trial, it emerged yesterday.

The news emerged as a chief constable called for greater protection for his officers, after Ann Widdecombe, Home four of them were injured in two separate attacks in Birmingham by armed gangs. In one case a policewoman had her skull fractured after being hit with an iron

In another incident yesterday, four people were stabbed at a iob centre in Kent - including one man left with a carving knife embedded in his head - when a woman went on the rampage.

The use of CS sprays will be discussed at an Association of Chief Police Officers' (ACPO) meeting in three weeks. Members are expected to give the goahead to street trials of hand-held spray canisters that are carried on an officer's belt and can incapacitate an attacker within seconds.

Trials were planned in 18 police forces last year but serious problems cast doubts on the future of such sprays. Testing was halted after a Metropolitan Police instructor needed hospital treatment for burns to his eyes after being sprayed by CS gas. Civil liberties groups have areued that not enough is known about the side-effects of the sprays and that their use is unnecessary.

However, a report by ACPO's Self Defence, Arrest, and Restraint sub-committee will tell this month's meeting of police chiefs that the problems have now been overcome.

Street trials are expected to start in the summer after the retraining of officers. The lightweight 3in-long canister has a

range of around 3ft.
CS is a white powder which affects the tear glands and mucus-secreting areas of the face, causing watering eyes,



Sir Ronald Hadfield: 'Need to protect officers is now clear

Office Minister, said yesterday that the need for police to be issued with an incapacitant spray was accepted, and suggested it was up to chief con-stables to get them to the officers on the beat. She said: "I am keen they should be made available.

The use of "pepper" sprays has been effectively shelved after a Home Office study warned that people with breathing problems and pregnant women could be at danger. In the past year, officers have been given new, longer batons and many forces provide protective vests.

Police chiefs yesterday pointed to two attacks against constables in Birmingham as examples of why officers needed further protection. In the early hours of yesterday morning, during a call to a suspected bur-glary in Birmingham, PC Vancs-sa Greening, 22, was hit over the head with an iron bar as she went to help 30-year-old PC Jon Jackson, who was lying uncon-

sledgehammer. PC Greening was recovering in hospital yesterday and PC Jackson received six stitches to an arm wound.

scious after being struck with a

Sir Ronald Hadfield, the Chief Constable of West Midlands Police, said: "My fear is that it will take the death of an officer before measures are taken to give my officers pro-tection. The only answer in the slow march towards arming all police is the introduction of some form of incapacitator such as CS gas or pepper which is used in America.

Sir Ronald said extra protection was needed for the police because assaults on officers were up five per cent on last year. He pointed to the current nationwide knives amnesty as evidence of the growing prob-lem of violence. He also referred to the attack at a Birmingham supermarket five days ago in which ten people were seriously injured by a man who ran amok with three

In the second incident in Birmingham vesterday, two officers received injuries when they were attacked by a fiveman gang brandishing knives. including a seven inch blade. Eight men were helping police with inquiries.



In the line of duty: PC Vanessa Greening recovers after being hit over the head with an iron bar as she went to the aid of a colleague during a call to a suspected burglary

Concern as blood stocks plummet

Blood stocks in England and Wales have fallen to 20 per cent below the minimum level set by the transfusion service last year. Managers have blamed the flu

pidemic and normal Christmas full in donations. But some staff and donors believe recent controversies have prompted many donors to stop giving. They also suspect managers failed to or-ganise supplies quickly enough.

- Yesterday, stocks stood at just over 12,000 units, compared with 15,000 which blood transfusion service officials have told staff they would be unhappy to fall beneath. A unit is the treated product from a pint of blood taken from a donor

Dr Colin Entwistle, the recently retired medical director of the Oxford Blood Transfusion Centre, said: "I think they are sailing horribly close to the wind for comfort, leaving very little room for the unexpected. This is a service where you cannot safely take the risk of run-

A blood service insider said some areas were "dangerously low '. Yesterday the Liverpool centre held about 530 units compared with some 2000 during September and October. "A severe road traffic accident can use 90 units, or hundreds of them if it's really bad. It is absolutely diabolical.

As early as 11 December. Austin Gray, chief executive of the National Blood Authority's vestern zone, covering Birmingham, Bristol, Oxford and Wessex, warned that its efforts to maintain levels were "still Tlearly the national picture on blood stocks is giving grave there was no need for alarm. cause for concern.

Supplies in blood transfu-15,000-unit level - a day and a half's supplies - on 14 out of 19 occasions when statistics were collated in December.

When there was concern over

not enough to allow National Blood Authority (NBA) managers to withdraw all the suspect

bags straight away. One insider said: "The NBA are on the record as having stat-ed at the beginning of 1995 that they would aim in general for a stock of around 20,000 units and would not be happy if it went below 15,000 units."

Sue Kilroe, of the Merseyside and North Wales Donors and Patients Association, said a shake-up of the service, which will downgrade some centres including Liverpool, had angered donors. They had also been upset by proposals to consider commercial spousorship and by reports in the Independent that



surplus blood products were being sold abroad at a profit. The NBA has said the low stocks are down to flu and Christmas, but the people I've spoken to are just not giving be-

cause they are so annoyed. The National Blood Authorproving to be inadequate... ity yesterday urged donors to keep appointments but said

"The first two weeks of January are notoriously the lowest sion centres dropped below the stock levels of the year. We're collecting what we're being asked for by the hospitals."

Yesterday, the separate Scottish blood service had three days' supplies instead of the four faulty blood bags in June, the service had 14,251 units in stock, and was also appealing for donors.

Perks bonanza for investors in Railtrack

RUSSELL HOTTEN

Almost 11,500 Railtrack employees are in line for a windin May after the Government announced it was pressing ahead with the company's £2bn privatisation, despite fierce opposition.

Private investors will get at least 30 per cent of the shares and are being promised special discounts, which the Government hopes will ensure the success of one of its most important privatisations yet.

The Government had said it aimed to sell Railtrack during spring 1996, and yesterday Sir George Young, transport secretary, published outline details of the timetable.

shares in PowerGen and National Power, the public offer will only be conducted through Share Shops, run by banks, building societies, stockbrokers and other financial firms.

The self-off will be proceed-ed by a £4m marketing campaign in March, during which key financial details will be released. As with past privatisations, private investors will pay for shares in two instalments. Shares offered to the public

will be priced at a discount to those for city institutions, and there will be special incentives for Railtrack employees, including free shares worth £160. They will also be entitled to £2 of shares for each year of ser-



are set for sell-off windfall

rice, plus two free shares for every one bought, up to a maximum value of £250.

City firms will tender through a separate offer in which they will have to bid for shares before knowing the final price. Despite Labour threats to de-rail the sale of Railtrack, which owns the track, signalling and stations, the Government is keen to secure the sale before the next election. Analysts expect it to raise about £26n, which could provide tax cuts. TURN TO PAGE TWO

REBECCA FOWLER Camelot, the national lottery operator, has warned it will shut down ticket terminals if there is any evidence of an in-

An Australian syndicate of

But the syndicate would need to purchase tickets worth £14m to cover all possible combinations of numbers. It would also have to take a significant risk on how many individual players will come up with the winning combination, and share a stake in

A spokeswoman for Camelot over 34 years. He first used his

Camelot aims to block bid by lottery syndicate would not succeed, but it was on

ternational syndicate trying to seize this week's record £40m iackpot.

2,500 players, led by a Romanian mathematics expert, is said to be eyeing Britain's lottery, after successfully winning first prizes and more than £25m in 14 lotteries world-wide.

the prize.

said that the company was con-mathematical knowledge to

1964 and escape from its comstandby for any abnormalities in munist regime to Australia. sales for this week's lottery,

Mr Mandel set up the Inwhich are expected to reach ternational Lotto Fund in Mclrecord levels because of the bourne when he was working as an insurance salesman, by perfrenzy surrounding the jackpot. suading customers, including "If there was any evidence of many doctors, lawyers and ac-countants, to join. The syndicate a commercial syndicate in action we would close down the ternow employs 30 accountants, and operates from a large office. minal straight away, or instruct the retailer not to sell any more tickets. It would stick out like a sore thumb," the spokes-Last year Mr Mandel said of the British lottery: "Not worth the woman said. "But the risk of effort unless the prize fund sharing the prize, and the logets really big."

However, even if Mr Mandel gistics of buying and filling out 14 million tickets by hand, make it difficult if not impossible for did pull off a British lottery sting, he and his shareholders risk not being able to collect their prize. Camelot is not liable the Australian syndicate which to pay out the jackpot on a ticket that it knows or suspects has been resold or otherwise transferred by the way of trade.

Making a killing, page 3 Winning-ticket odds, page 17

from Birmingham University.

hunger. It's very much more

complex and involves a myriad

of different sorts, moods and

psychological mechanisms and

circuits in the brain. There's not

Cynics might note that there

is another, easier method of

fooling the body it has just

consumed a large meal - it is

one button a drug could act on."

said Professor Booth.

"There's not one thing called



memory expert, who has trained industrialists, trades unionists, businessmen, professional men. salesmen, housewives and students to improve their memories, once said: "Many people are embar-

rassed by a poor memory, and find difficulty in concentrating, whilst others realise that they lose business, academic and social opportunities not only because they cannot remember accurately everything they see, hear or read, but also because they cannot think or express their thoughts clearly, logically and concisely. Some seek advice, but many do not, mainly because they believe their memories cannot be improved".

Simple Technique

And yet, he went on to explain, he has devised a simple technique which can improve even the poorest memory. What's more, it can even work like magic to give you added poise, self-confidence and greater personal effectiveness. Everyone owes it to himself to find out more about this method.

Rapid Results

According to this remarkable man, anyone - regardless of his present skill could, in just 20 minutes a day, improve his memory and concentration to a remarkable degree. For



Why Does Your

Forget names, faces?

get another appointment ever! You could learn names. faces, facts, figures and foreign languages faster than you ever thought possible. You may be able to imprint whole books on your memory after a single reading. You could be more successful in your studies and examinations. At parties and dinners you may never again be at a loss for appropriate words or entertaining stories. In fact, you could even be more poised and self-confident in everything you say and do. Free

easy-to-follow rules for developing skill in remembering. we, the publishers, have printed full details of this interesting self-training method in a fascinating

To acquaint all readers of

The Independent with the

book, "Adventures in Memory", sent free on request. No obligation. No salesman will call. Just fill in and return the coupon on Page 12 1you don't even need to stamp your envelope), or write to:- Memory and Concentration Studies (Dept. IDM76), FREEPOST 198, example, you need never for- Manchester M60 3DL.

IN BRIEF

Mobile moans

The "consumer's verdict" on mobile telephones is that both the networks and the equipment Page 5 are too unreliable.

Disney dust-up Fighting broke out at Disneyland Paris when some workers tried to go on strike. Page 13



Married stress

The wives of executives who are made redundant are under more strain than their hus-

England bowled over Paul Adams, the 18-year-old picked by South Africa for his bowling not his batting, vesterday probably settled the Test se-

ries against England. Page 26 Today's weather Eastern regions will be cloudy with a chilly wind. There will be showers in western areas and

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DANNY PENMAN

Scientists may have discovered the ultimate recipe for slimmers a pill that will fool the body into believing it has just enjoyed a big meal.

A team at Hammersmith Hospital in London has discovered that a small protein known as GLP-1 is produced after rats have eaten a heavy meal. The protein stops the animals from eating too much. When it was blocked by the sci-Scotland Section Two, page 17 | entists, the rats over-ate.

Diet discovery hard to stomach Stephen Bloom, professor normal body weight. "You David Booth, a psychologist tal, says that the mechanism of satisfaction is likely to be identical in rats and humans, leaving the way open for a new now'."

slimming drug. "It really won't be very difficult for the pharmaceutical companies to produce a GLP-1 lookalike that stops the develop a drug that knocked out body from over-eating," said Professor Bloom. The new drug would specifically block overconsumption - it would not pre-

of endocrinology at the hospi- could make it specific in increasing satiety, so that after eating one steamed pudding you'd be able to say: That's enough

any attempt of this kind."

Stefan Mandel, the head of

recently won £15m in the Vir-

ginian lottery in the United

States, has perfected his system

The new drug would not be capable of abuse by anorexics or people with similar disorders. "It would be quite dangerous to appetite entirely," Professor Bloom said.

But over-eating is more complex than a simple desire for known as eating a Chinese vent people maintaining their calories, according to Professor takeaway.

section TWO

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ONE

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IN BRIEF

Footballers accused of fixing matches The footballers Bruce Grobbelaar and Hans Segers, former player John Fashanu, and a Malaysian businessman, Heng

Suan Lin, appeared before Southampton magistrates yes-

terday charged in connection

Mr Grobbelaar is charged

with accepting £40,000 from Mr

Fashanu as a reward for influ-

encing the result of a Newcas-

tle v Liverpool game on 21 November 1993. Newcastle won

3-0. Mr Segers is accused of accepting £19,000 from Fashanu

as a reward for fixing the match

between Liverpool and Wim-

bledon on 22 October 1994 which Liverpool won 3-0. Mr

Fashanu is charged with giving

the players the money, and all

four defendants are accused of

The charges were brought

under the Prevention of Cor-

ruption Act 1906. The four

men were bailed to appear at a committal hearing on 18

Two people convicted under the

Criminal Justice Act for com-

memorating the 1985 "Battle of the Beanfield" at Stonehenge

began their appeals at Salisbury

Dr Margaret Jones, a uni-

versity lecturer, and Richard

Lloyd, a student, were convict-

ed in October of Trespassary As-

sembly. The provisions of the 1994 Criminal Justice and Pub-

lic Order Act were designed to

prevent gatherings of 20 people

or more at places such as Stone-

henge during the summer sol-

stice. Dr Jones and Mr Lloyd

claimed then and now that

there were only 19 people pre-

sent, and the court was shown video footage which appeared to support their case.

charged with causing death by dangerous driving after a collision in which three members of a family died on a Christmas

outing. David Hogarth, 41. a prlice inspector, and his sins

Matthew, 12, and Andrew, 10, of

Ripley, Derbyshire, died frem

injuries suffered in the accident

near Buxton on 22 Decembir.

The unnamed driver is on o-

lice bail and will appear be! re-

Driver accused A 26-year-old lorry driver was

County Court yesterday.

Stonehenge pair

fight conviction

leturn

n Salara m

conspiring to fix matches.

with alleged match-fixing.

Burst pipe claims set to reach £500m

WILL BENNETT

Britain's water companies last night promised to get supplies back to normal by the weekend but up to 100,000 people are still having to collect their water from tankers and bowsers. Insurance experts estimate that the total damage caused by burst pipes may reach £500

The worst-affected area is in Northumberland where about 50,000 people in the towns of Ashington and Newbiggin, near Morpeth, have had no running

water for three days.
In Scotland 12,000 people in the Strathclyde region have no water, 6,500 of them in the town of Airdrie, and the number of people in the Grampian region with no supplies increased from 8,000 to 10,000 yesterday. However, the situation around the country yesterday was a substantial improvement on Tuesday when several hundred thousand people were without water because of pipe breakages

caused by the new-year thaw. Jim Conlon. Northumbrian Water's area manager for Ashington, said vesterday that teams would be working flat out to restore supplies. He added: We estimate it will be 24 to 36 hours before we are satisfied that we have got the majority of services restored."

John Hargreaves. Northumbrian's managing director, said that the problems had been caused by a combination of the sudden and rapid thaw, and the fact that many bursts had occurred in factories and and schools closed for the holiday, which had necessitated cutting off supplies. He promised

that there would be a full review "to see if there is anything we can learn", but rejected suggestions that the crisis had anything to do with privatisation. pointing out that Scotland, where water is still publicly owned, had also been badly hit.

However, Donald Macgregor, national water-workers secretary for the GMB union laid the blame for the crisis on the privatised companies' staff cuts. He said: "The water companies have laid off so many staff that there are now only half the number of people left in many areas of the industry."

Both Northumbrian and North East Water face a huge compensation bill. Each household without water can claim £10 a day after the first 24 hours, which means that that the bill for the Ashington and Newbiggin area alone is likely to be about £1 million, and the total may be twice that.

Raymond Robertson, the Scottish Office minister, said that the Government would consider financial help for local authorities in Scotland. Such assistance will not be provided in England and Wales.

In Strathclyde, services are expected to be back to normal by the weekend and supplies in Lothian should be restored within two days. Schools and colleges in Grampian, however, will not reopen on Monday after the holiday period because of damage caused to water and heating systems.

Ofwat, the water industry regulating authority in England and Wales, said yesterday that it would be consulting its regional committees to see what lessons could be learned.



Thirsty work: AshIngton residents drain the last drop from a street-corner butt at the start of a third day without water Photograph: Owen Humphreys

Staffordshire by-election: Labour dismisses Tory claims of 'indecent' visit to seat vacated by MP's death

Prescott hits the campaign trail

JAMES CUSICK

At 8.57am yesterday the New Labour, New Britain sign was strategically lowered for the television cameras. At 8.58am the bouquet of red roses was delivered. At 8.59 iced water was poured. At 9am Lahour's deputy leader, John Prescott, arrived and announced campaigning had not started in the South East Staffordshire byelection. No one believed him.

Just before Christmas the Conservative MP Sir David Lightbown died.

Mr Prescott arrived in Tamworth dismissing accusations by leading Conservatives that Labour were acting in a far from decent fashion by opening byelection discussions so close to Sir David's death.

Once the prop forward of the Tory Whips office, Sir David was nicknamed "The Enforcer". The enforcer's reputation

be prudent

be extravagant 🕒

will doubtless play its part in the as Mr Prescott and Labour's Tory voters gathered and an uncoming Tory campaign. But Mr newly NEC-endorsed candiofficial spokesman admitted: Prescott played his own role yesterday - "The Terminator", the bringer of bad news to the Tory faithful in the prosperous Midlands market town. The Tories "are now irrevocably divided" both in Parliament and in the country. "We intend to maximise the pressure on them at every possible occasion," said

Mr Prescott.

With a 7,192 Tory majority the by-election should be another Labour scalp when voting takes place, expected to be in late March. However Mr Prescott was keen to emphasise his party would "in no sense be complacent".

In 1992, Sir David's constituency increased both its Tory vote and overall percentage. Labour organisers admitted yesterday: "This is going to be bloody hard work." The sentiments were echoed

get our one year mortgage rate of only 2.14%

buy a few things you don't really need

date, local councillor Brian Jenkins, went for a stroll in the

In front of the town hall's statue of Sir Robert Peel, twice prime minister in the last century, a group of middle-aged



John Prescott: Promise to put pressure on Tories

Yes there is dissent. Yes there is party disunity, yes there are mistakes everywhere but the hard choice will be our party or Labour. The answer will be no to Labour.

Yet Labour control both the district and county councils. The Tories failed to win any seats in Tamworth's last borough elections in May.

For Labour to lose or even fail to win well would be a disaster for Tony Blair.

In the coming campaign, Tamworth's associations with Sir Robert Peel will feature heavily. In 1834 he effectively renamed his party the Conservatives and produced the first published election address. He laid out the principles of his New Conservatism in a document distributed to the national press, now known as the Tamworth Manifesto.

JOHN WILLCOCK

The judge in the long-running Maxwell trial told the jury yes-terday at the beginning of his

summing-up that one of the key

questions they must answer is how far Kevin Maxwell's evi-dence can be believed.

Lord Justice Phillips told the

Old Bailey jury, on day 117 of

the trial, that all the three de-

fendants were of good charac-

ter. However Kevin had told the

court about lies he told to var-

ious banks in the prefude to the

collapse of the Maxwell empire

in 1991. Kevin had insisted that

although he had been forced by

his father, Robert Maxwell, to

lie to the banks, everything he

The judge said Kevin had re-acted with indignation to sug-

gestions from the prosecution that he had lied in the witness

told the court was true.

With the term Tory discredited, the manifesto was intended to unite a divided party looking for strong leadership. John Major may know just how Sir Robert felt.

Last night local Conservatives began their choosing their own candidate, who will be trying to win a by-election for the Tories for the first time since victory in Richmond seven years ago. In the area where Peel tried to invent "one nation" conservatism, there may yet be prayers

offered seeking his advice. Meanwhile, the battle for the general election got under way today with an advertisement by Labour challenging the Tories' claims to economic success.

The advertisement in the Independent was intended as a riposte to Tory advertisements at the weekend claiming that Britain had been given low in-flation and sustainable growth under the Conservatives.

"I doubt if there have been

many criminal cases where the jury has had a better opportu-

nity to study the demeanour of

acy to defraud the Maxwell

pension funds. Kevin, his broth-

er Ian, and Larry Trachten-

berg are accused on a separate

count of conspiracy to defraud

the funds. Both the defence and

prosecution submissions were

completed before Christmas

and the summing up - expect-

ed to last five days - was ad-

journed until yesterday to allow

the jury a Christmas break.

Lord Justice Phillips de-

fended the jury system against

accusations that it was inade-

quate in cases of serious fraud. He said 12 ordinary men and

women had faced a challenge in

understanding the workings of

the City. He said: "What is

needed at the end of the day is

Kevin is accused of conspir-

Maxwell judge

gives warning

MP warns of lure of Scargill party

Talks with Sinn

Fein to continue

JOHN RENTOUL Political Correspondent

Left-wing MPs could leave the Labour Party to link up with Arthur Scargill's breakaway soof Labour MPs, said yesterday.

He disagreed with the timing

of Mr Scargill's move to set up a Socialist Labour Party in May: "Arthur is wrong that this is the defining moment." But he make a rival party viable. added: "It is possible for today's Labour leadership to take today's Labour Party down a path which would split the party.

That would be of the right's making rather than the left." MPs would leave if three conditions were fulfilled: "The proportional representation always done that".

COLIN BROWN

Ministers yesterday refused to

break off contacts with Sinn

Fein leaders in spite of a call by

the deputy leader of the Ulster

Unionists to halt talks with the

IRA and Sinn Fein because of the wave of killings of alleged

Officials at the Northern Ire-

land Office said contacts with

Sinn Fein were being main-

tained, and more meetings

John Taylor's call for meet-

ings to be halted caused a split

in the Ulster Unionists ranks af-

ter it was repudiated by Ken

Maginnis, the party's security

spokesman. Mr Maginnis said

it would give the IRA an excuse

The call was supported by An-

drew Hunter, the pro-Unionist chairman of the backbench

for returning to violence.

drug dealers in Ulster.

could be held.

and of state funding of political parties." Advisers to Tony Blair, the

Labour leader, have discussed abolition of the union block vote, while he has promised a cialist party after the next elec-tion, Alan Simpson, secretary of the hard-left Campaign Group and the party is committed to state funding of parties. Mr Simpson, MP for Nottingham South, believes the union link would provide the issue, while

Yesterday a Blair loyalist, Kim Howells, Labour MP for

Pontypridd, urged the party to expel the National Union of Mineworkers leader, whom he called a "complete megalomaniac", adding that "if he doesn't like the game that the other kids severing altogether of the trade-union link, the introduction of ball away and start his own. He's

said there should be a "pause"

until the killings had stopped.
Direct Action Against Drugs
(DAAD) claimed they killed the

latest victim, Ian Lyons, 31,

who was shot as he sat in a car

with his girlfriend outside her

home at Lurgan, Co Armagh. He died later in hospital, the

seventh man to be murdered

since April when the shootings

first started, and the fifth in the

last month. Sinn Fein's senior

representatives involved in talks

with the British and Irish gov-

emments have been urged to

disown the campaign of blood-

The party insists there is no

proof of IRA involvement in the

The Government's refusal to

heed the call underlines John

Major's determination not to al-

low the peace process to be

pushed off course by his possi-

ble reliance on the Unionists to

remain in power for a full term.

shed in nationalist areas.

atest shooting.

magistrates on 8 January. Tourist record

Britain is on target to bree its annual record for the nur per of tourists coming from abr id. according to the Central atistical Office. Latest figures or October 1995, show that Ic number of foreign tourists 🐒 iting the UK in the first h months of last year total d iust over 20 million - 11 per e. n up on the January to Octob 1 1994 total and the annuit record of 21 million set in 1994 is almost certain to fall.

Sky chief

Stuart Prebble, controller of factual programmes at the ITV Network Centre, has been appointed chief executive of Granada Sky Broadcasting, the Sky and Granada joint or nture to launch eight satellite hannels this year.

Train derailed

Up to 200 rail commuters had to walk to safety last night after their train was derailed. The train, the 6.13pm from King's Cross to Cambridge, was derailed about 100 yards outside the London station.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD Belgsum BF/80 Italy [4,500 CananesPts300 Madeira Esc325 Cyprus C£1.20 Malta 43 cents Denmark Dkr18 Norway Nkr20 Insh Rep 45p Portugal . . . Esc.325 France Fr14 Span Pts300 Germany DM4.5 Sweden.... Skr20 Greece Dr450 Switzerland . Str4.00 Linearthourg\$3.00

OVERSEAS SUBSCRIPTIONS

ka mail, 13 weeks: Europe £110,76; Zone 1 (Middie East. Amenca, Africa and India) £184.08. Zone 2 (Far East and Australasia) £206,70, To onlier, please send cheque payable to follosors international lifedia Services Ltd to 43 Milliantique, London E14 977 ortalephone 0171-538 8288. Orada cants welcome BACK ISSUES

box. The judge said Kevin had given evidence for over 20 days. committee of Tory MPs on Northern Ireland. Mr Hunter Brady's legal challenge

MARIANNE MACDONALD Media Correspondent

Ian Brady is seeking to launch the first High Court challenge of a Press Complaints Commission ruling over a Sun article headlined "Well-fed face of evil child murderer".

The feature, illustrated with long-lens photographs of Brady, began: "This is the new face of Moors murderer Ian Brady bloated by soft living in a cushy hospital. The evil child-killer feasts on a choice of menus including steak and salmon."

The article last July claimed that Brady, who was sentenced to life in 1966 for killing five chil-

"no longer the gaunt figure he used to be" and compared Ashworth hospital in Merseyside to a top hotel. "He has a five-star room with his own key, access to a swimming pool, multi-gym, library, tennis courts and a football pitch," it added. Charles Kaye, chief executive of the Special Hospitals Service Authority which runs Ashworth. immediately sought permission from Brady to complain to the

commission over the article. He believed the article flouted its codes on privacy, particularly regarding long-lens pictures. However, the managing editor of the Sun, William New-

dren with Myra Hindley, was man, defended the paper in a letter which argued: "Public interest demands that we should continue to monitor the progress of such evil people through our prison and secure hospital establishments." The PCC upheld the Sun in

a ruling which Mr Kaye says mirrors the tabloid's own defence. "As well as being a patient at Ashworth, Ian Brady is also a notorious child murderer a matter in itself which justifies scrutiny of him in the public in-terest." The adjudication has triggered Brady's legally-aided High Court challenge to the Commission - the first in its five-year history.

Privatisation windfall for Railtrack workers

FROM PAGE ONE

The Labour Party's transport spokesman, Brian Wilson, said he would secure support from MPs of all parties to oppose the sale: "Nobody should be in any doubt about Labour's commitment to retaining the railway infrastructure in public ownership and with full public accountability.
"Anyone who invests in Rail-

track, in the death days of this Government, will be under no illusions about Labour's position. It is a high-risk prospectus and there are certainly going

to be no rich pickings for those who get involved.
"There is no future for in-

vestors in supporting the utterly unwanted sale of Railtrack."

SBC Warburg, financial adviser to the Department of Transport, would reveal nothing about Railtrack's prospective value or price. Railtrack Group Plc, as it will be known, owns 23,000 miles of track, 2,500 passenger stations, 1,000 tunnels.

and 90,000 bridges. Three rail-equipment leasing companies have already been sold and three freight companies are still up for sale.

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How to make a killing on the lottery

REBECCA FOWLER

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of fixing many

It is perhaps not the easiest way to make a million, but for Stefan Klincewicz, 45, a half-Pol-ish accountant, it worked. His 28-strong syndicate purchased the winning ticket for the £2.2m jackpot in the Irish lottery four

years ago in a dramatic sting.

Mr Klincewicz devised the plot in a Dublin pub in 1990 in anticipation of a rollover jackpot, when the prize swells to record levels. As soon as it came up, his team of ticket buyers tore across Ireland.

Although Irish lottery chiefs recognised that sales had increased dramatically, and started to shut down terminals the day before the draw, the syndicate bought up 80 per cent of the total 1.94 million ticket number combinations.

Mr Klincewicz, who knows Stefan Mandel, head of the Australian syndicate allegedly considering a sting on the British lottery this week, said yesterday that he would not even attempt such an operation on this week's £40m jackpot.

"It's incredibly risky. The problem from a statistical point of view is that there should be seven, eight or nine winners in Saturday night's draw," he said.

The United Kingdom lottery has been designed to stop this sort of thing going on, so that even if you buy all the tickets. the risk is still enormous. Whereas with the Irish lottery, there was also a £100 prize for matching four numbers which mean investors were always going to get a 75 per cent return." After his coup, Mr Klincewicz laid out the game-plan for THENATIONAL

ITS A ROCLOVER THIS WEEKS EST JACKPOT 33M

Just the ticket: Rollover frenzy is building up the jackpot fund

the perfect lottery plot. First, the Irish syndicate raised the money to cover the tickets, and passed it on to a firm of accountants to bank. It then set up offices in a central location to

co-ordinate the ticket-buying. Pay-slips were collected in batches from shops over a period of a week in an attempt to prevent a sudden influx. They were filled out at headquarters.

You don't advertise for people. You just get them by word of mouth," Mr Klincewicz said.

A selection of hotel rooms were then booked across the country, and the money for the tickets put into banks nearby. The job of getting tickets in-putted then began and the syndicate lay bets of nearly £900,000 in two days before it was stopped by officials. You choose machines where you don't get in the way of other people who are buying tickets," Mr_Klincewicz said.

The lottery organisers became suspicious when they noticed shops normally selling less than £1,000 worth of tickets daily suddenly recording sales of £15,000 in a morning.

and the syndicate started re- chased they were taken back to cruiting teams of ticket-buyers. the headquarters and kept in secure storage. "When you've got the ticket, you just sit back and enjoy the show," Mr Klincewicz said. But the biggest risk for any syndicate, is whether regular players will also have come up with the win-

ning combination through luck. Although Mr Klincewicz's syndicate - which included a barrister, business executives and a roof contractor - had the winning ticket, it was still forced to share it with another winner, leaving it with Ir£568,682, although it scooped another lr£400,000 from mopping up

Mr Klincewicz has subse quently set up a series of other syndicates from his parent company, that bears the logo "A

Ecstasy

teenager

to make

full

recovery

A teenager who fell into a

coma for more than 24 hours

after taking an ecstasy tablet at a New Year's Eve party was

recovering last night to the

relief of her anguished parents

who maintained a two-day vig-

In a grim parallel with the Leah Betts tragedy, Helen Cousins, 19, collapsed after

taking the pill and drinking as

much as seven litres of water

As police in Cambridgeshire began the task of tracking down

the dealer who sold the tablet,

doctors said they believed she

had lapsed into the coma because the drug had ham-

pered her kidneys' ability to deal

But despite the fits she suffered while in the coma, doctors

at Peterborough District Hos-

pital were optimistic yesterday

that she would make a full

from the intensive care unit.

ecovery after she was moved

Leaving the hospital yesterday, her father Trevor, 47, told

of the shock he and his wife,

Janet, 51, felt at what had hap-

pened, mixed with relief that their ordeal appeared to be

over. "She is getting better and we are incredibly relieved." he

said. "We cannot put it into

words. It has been absolutely

horrendous ... a nightmare. But hopefully the worst is over."

trast to that of Leah Betts,

who died after lapsing into a

coma when she took one of the

tablets at her 18th birthday party. It was thought that her death, considered one of per-

haps 50 related to the drug, had

been the result of a contaminated tablet. But doctors sub-

sequently felt it had been the

result of drinking too much water to combat dehydration.

shocking pictures of her on a

life-support system to discour-

age others and took part in the

making of a educational video

entitled Sorted - yesterday at-

tacked those who sold the drug

She took the drug while cel-ebrating the New Year at Win-ners nightchib, in Peterborough,

and was discovered ill by friends

who took her to a flat. But when

her condition continued to de-

teriorate they called an ambu-

lance. She was taken to hospital

where she slipped into a coma

Dr Michael Dronfield, who

is treating Miss Cousins, a sales

assistant, said she had probably

put her life in danger by drink-

ing so much water, causing the

sodium level in her blood to

drop and induce the deep coma.

there is evidence that one of the

problems ecstasy can cause is

that it affects the kidneys' abil-

"It's not widely known that

shortly after arrival.

to Miss Cousins.

Her parents - who released

The outcome is a stark con-

with the water.

when she started to feel ill.

il by her hospital bed.

IAN MacKinnon

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'Acne' drug may relieve Gulf War sickness

JOHN MCKIE

In his time wit the 101st US Airborne Divion, Sergeant Tom Hare used) go on 25-mile road marches ith a rucksack on his back. The in September 1990, he went t the Gulf War. On returning of April 1991, Sgt Hare was unabito pick up his fifteen-pound by daughter.

Sgt Hare, nor 34, was in a wheelchair, sufired blackouts, and had to sleeptanding up for four years due) what he believes was the cadition known as Gulf War Sytrome (GWS), which mannes many symptoms including tronic fatigue, sore arms, meory loss and blurred eyesig! No cure has been found he the disorder which has affec I at least 4,000 British Gulf verans and more

) in e US. ralking and harlade an almost full recovery at that, he believes, is due the antibiotic dioxycycline, p scribed to him by Californian rarobiologist Dr Howard Urnm2. In a presentation to sciensts in London vesterday, the dator said: "This antibiotic is deig a very good job of stopping re progression of diseases caud by Gulf War

Di aveyelinewas prescribed to Sg. Hare an his wife Christine, a former carse in the Gulf who also sufferd from the syndrome. Both him the drug has absolved the 10f the pain they had suffere to br three years. They had o Wirally been told by hospital King their home in Orange, southston, that the problem s to ball in our mind". Mrs baffe seid!"As long as I and the dioxy-yeline, I'm fine. It is ger than the stuff doctors

r-cuce tibe for kids acne." ces witish doctors, said Dr eir norbitz, were reluctant to use meonicus because it takes six-tocopie eweeks to take effect. But key arded: It would be readily tod-wable, for about £5 a week,

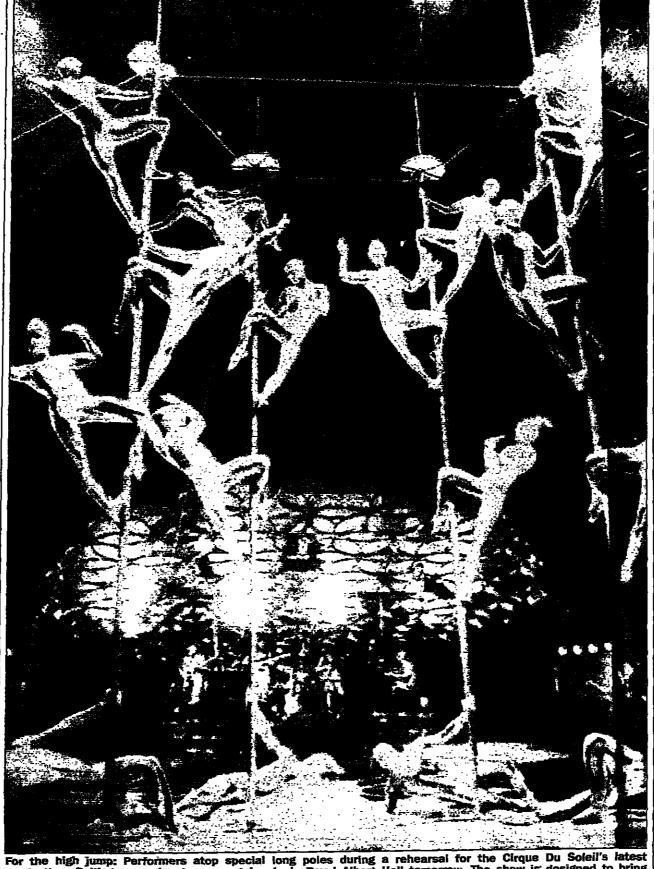
ine in one British sufferer is scepsthem about dioxycycline's with spects of success. Michael maipzak, who served on the squeumunition ship Sir Tristram from suffered from heightened cury ression, poor eyesight, These on his kidney and mem-have jess after his return from the scribe, said: "Given that everypundy's genetic make-up is dif-

orgent, the antibiotic is going to feet everybody differently." The US Senate has also arged caution, with a spokesman warning that many of the vndrome's viruses may be im-

nune to the antibiotic. A US; overnment body, the Centres or Disease Control, only ack owledged the seri-usness of the problem last Mear, while in Britain the Ministry of Defence refuses to accept Gulf War Syndrome.



Circus in pole position at Albert Hall



production, Saltimbanco, due to open at London's Royal Albert Hall tomorrow. The show is designed to bring traditional circus skills together with hi-tech visual effects and rock music

Boy, 11, dies after | Women driving rottweiler attack in fear of attack

An 11-year-old boy savaged two weeks ago by a pair of rotexpected to be taken against Mr Turner, but a file would be tweiler dogs died yesterday of

David Kearney, from Darwen, Lancashire, received horrific wounds in the attack. He was said to be so badly mutilated that his mother did not recog-

Doctors at Booth Hall Children's Hospital, Manchester, where he died, had to amputate his leg just above the knee after gangrene set in last week. He had since suffered kidney failure and a heart attack and was

being kept alive on ventilator. David was attacked after climbing into a yard, where owner Kevin Turner kept the rottweilers, to retrieve a football. He was bending down to pick up some money that had fallen from his pocket when the dogs attacked.

His sister Amanda, 14, said afterwards: "He stayed to pick it up and one of the dogs came over. He tried to make friends with it but it went for him." The dogs were destroyed af-

submitted to the Crown Prosecution Service. David's parents, who spent

Christmas at his bedside, were said to be distraught. A friend of the family said: "They knew how badly he was injured but they had been hoping he would pull through. Everyone is ter-

The Rev Dick Cartmell, who baptised David, and comforted his parents at the hospital, said: "Kevin and Margaret were very distressed as they realised their son was dving. I was not there at the very end. His parents were very brave and wanted to be alone with him as he died." He received the Last Rites

from the hospital chaplain. Fund-raising events to help comfort the family were being arranged by staff and customers at a local pub, the Railway Ho-tel. Landlord, Michael McCarroll, said: "Everyone felt for the lad and the regulars all wanted

to do something to help. We will carry on raising money to help the family in any ter the attack. Police said initially that no action was

Women are so scared of being attacked in their cars that some would consider carrying knives, guns and crowbars to protect themselves, according to a sur-

vey published yesterday. Nearly three in five women fear being attacked and almost 80 per cent said they could foresee a time when they might consider carrying personal protection.

The survey, conducted for the motor leasing and retailing group, Cowie, revealed that while 14 per cent would consider carrying a crowbar or a blunt instrument, 3 per cent said they would think about carrying a knife and I per cent a

Most preferred to think about having a mobile phone or a personal alarm while almost half would opt for a spray which could be squirted in the face of an auacker.

Asked if they would actually use any of these items, 92 per cent of the women replied: Yes, if necessary."

In addition to women's perceived need to carry weapons. the survey found that more than one in four said they were not prepared to drive alone at night on motorways or country

If they broke down on a motorway at night, 50 per cent would stay locked in their cars on the hard shoulder despite the dangers. Most women said they were unhappy with the frequency of emergency telehones on motorways.

Two in five said they did not feel safe while using a multistorey car park and about the same number said they only felt secure during the day.

'Women feel vulnerable on our roads, especially at night," said Julie Jobling of Cowie.

"With many more women driving now, more should be done to co-ordinate the safety message to them," she added. "Women should not feel the need to carry a weapon in order to feel safe when driving credible advice and more police patrols on motorways should be made available."

The survey also found that almost 60 per cent of women felt less secure on public transport than in their car.

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The Times. Ist November 1995

WHICH COUNTRY...

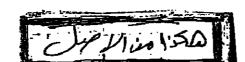
HAS SLUMPED FROM 13TH TO 18TH IN THE WORLD PROSPERITY LEAGUE?

OUR COUNTRY.

On 1st November 1995 the World Prosperity League showed how, under the Conservatives, Britain has fallen from 13th to 18th place. Two months, one Commons defeat and one defection later, isn't it time John Major started to answer the real questions about what is happening to our country under the Conservatives?

- I. Why has our country fallen from 13th to 18th place?
- 2. Why is our country's share of world trade now at its lowest this
- 3. Why has our country fallen to 21st in the International League for investment?
- 4. Why is our country now 35th in the World Education League and, of the major European economies, why do we have the smallest percentage of young people in full time education?
- 5. Why do I in 5 of our country's working age households have no-one earning a wage, and why does our country have a million fewer people in work than when John Major became Prime Minister?
- 6. Why are I in 3 children in our country in poverty, compared with I in 10 in 1979?
- 7. Why has our country, under the Tories, had the biggest tax rise in peacetime history?
- 8. Why are typical families in our country paying £600 more in taxes than in 1992, when John Major promised taxes would fall year on year?
- 9. Why have more homes in our country been repossessed under the Conservatives, and why are more people suffering from negative equity, than ever before?
- 10. Why, after 16 years of Conservative government, is our country so divided?

Labour



Nor is the promise to

e academic u.e Government replace was intro-(wo years ago after edudepartment officials cred that schools were seg pupils on a wide variety

fathomable criteria. a circular, it had no statuorce. Schools such as the ion Oratory, where Tony the Opposition leader. his son, carried on sepupils partly by interview is had always done. department said: s already play a key role r denominational and seschools and there is ev-

that some schools would make more use of them. present circular makes it 11 pupils should not be y lot, but a court ruled cashire County Counuse a lottery to settle or one of

Time to give good vibes back to the land, says Glastonbury farmer







trance fee was charged, it was

possible to nip under a fence.

Now a mini-city springs up on the rutted fields, making for-

tunes for the stallholders and

s with hard-core h ppies to ie in and drop out, will not ke place this summer. Michael Eavis, the farmer who runs it from his Somerset

terests of good farming practice.
"We're having a fallow year," he explained yesterday. "Missing a festival every three or four years - the last times were 1991, 1988 and 1982 - has always been Glastonbury practice." Others were dubious about his explanation, as Mr Eavis was recently selected as the Labour prospective parliafarm, has decided to give the mentary candidate for Wells, a event a miss this year, in the intraditionally true-blue seat.

"One wonders if there has been some involvement by the Labour Party to say 'give it a rest this year in case there's an election'," Peter Gold, the Liberal Democrats' prospective rliamentary candidate said.

Mr Eavis was shocked by the suggestion. "The festival's too important to muck around with. We see this as a break to stimulate everyone to go for it the

Glastonbury's run by doctors, dentists, lawyers, teachers and farmers, but they do it because they love it. It's nothing to do with politics. Most serious punters don't think there'll be an

election until 1997 anyway." Either way, the festival's absence will be a blow for thousands who yearn - often behind their conventional lifestyles - to

"We've all got proper jobs. in the country amid dirt, dope and loud music. And there are more and

more of them. In the last 25 years, the festival has grown from 1,500 people watching Marc Bolan at sunset (he arrived in a velvet-covered car and performed on a stage tied to an apple tree) to its present, awe-

Meanwhile, the bands have come and gone, from Elvis Costello and Van Morrison to Oasis, Supergrass and Pulp, and the festival has grown up. From a cheap weekend run by rock-mad farmer who lost £1,500 for the privilege, it is now a big business, as likely to attract corporate hospitality as New Age travellers

In the early days, as devotees

non-existent. Entrance was free, along with milk from the farm, But it has never matched 1970, says Mr Eavis. "To this day, I reckon it's about the best thing that's ever lavatories were communal cesspits and free spirits danced naked in the mud. Those were happened here. the days when drugs were sold openly and, even when an en-

While some of the 900 locals have objected to the traffic jams, the noise, and hippies using front gardens as lavatories, on a national level Glastonbury has become as much a part of the annual social calendar as the Last Night of the Proms.

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Disillusion ife' among ñobile

of the business lies.

a subscribers are disillued, with about one in four etting the choice they made cording to a report by Association in March. lieves that ers Vert the inve a good ne prices criticises eople into

at expires. "al improvewhich can be extremely low. Sir Gerald Whent, chief extion wants we the right whitever they would most of the using the telephone.

It is also angered by the etice of charging premium ces to people who call from his normal fixed telephone to ir normal fixed telephone to meone using a mobile. Many copie calling mobiles assume

with extuses for

opt out be-

ey are paying the normal rd-wire price.

The initial findings emerge as charges from each operator. he industry braces itself for anther round in the price wars. with Vodafone and Cellnet - the main network operators squaring up to competition. Cellnet's annual expenditure from rivals. Orange and Mercury One-2-One.

The two market leaders each have about 2.3 million subscribers compared to a few believes that in the industry as nundred thousand for the newcomers. But Orange and One- to spend less than £200, even ... armly at the mass market which any calls.

is where many believe the future

ne users

Last month, Vodafone announced a new range of prices which provides billing on the ha-sis of seconds and offers a certain amount of "free" call time One City analyst said that the packages make Vodafone about as cheap as Orange for some types of user, but he added that the larger company still has

some way to go to close the gap. On Tuesday, Vodafone and Cellnet revealed that the number of new subscribers in December was sharply down on the previous festive period when they featured strongly on Christmas present lists. The implication is that people are now much more conscious of the on-going cost of using the telephones, the initial price of

ecutive of Vodafone, said that in spite of the downturn at the end of 1995, the year as a whole was one of "exceptional" growth in every other month. Comparisons between prices on the different networks are extremely difficult, because of the confusing plethora of packages of subscriptions and call

Vodafone estimates that the average spent by each of its customers is still about £470 a year, in spite of the introduction of lower-cost deals for consumers. per customer ranges from £240 on consumer packages to £700

for higher paying executives.
The Consumers' Association a whole, is it almost impossible One have pitched themselves when customers do not make

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Drugs sold 'without adequate warning'

NICHOLAS TIMMINS Public Policy Editor

Th. Consumers' Association is to oppose any further switches of drugs from prescriptiononly medicines to over-thecounter sales in pharmacies after "alarming" evidence that pharmacists are failing to warn of potential drug-interactions, or advise patients who should consult a doctor to go to one.

30 powerful drugs which used to be available only on prescription have been switched to pharmacy sale. The move is aimed at cutting both the drugs while providing more convenience and choice for patients. Highly effective drugs that have changed status include

the painkiller Nurofen, the indigestion and anti-ulcer drug Tagamet, the anti-diarrhoeal Imodium, Triludan for hav fever, and Canesten which treats fungal infections.

Many are now heavily promoted by the industry. But as more and more powerful drugs are switched over the evidence is that "pharmacies can't cope", Which?, the association's magazine says. "Some pharmacists In the past three years, some admit that the sheer pace of change over the past few years threatens to overwhelm them."

Researchers were sold the wrong drug for their condition 14 out of 30 times. In six cases bill and the need for GP visits, sales took place despite the pharmacist or assistant being given information which showed the drug might put the customer at risk.



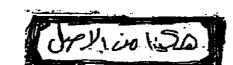




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news

Selection unlikely for majority of schools



Class issue: Reading Girls' School began selecting pupils because it wanted to get a 'fairer share of bright girls'

Photograph: John Lawrence

Local authorities will remain in charge of admissions policies, reports Judith Ju

The Prime Minister wants us to and Employment said vesterday: difficult. believe he is about to give academic selection its biggest boost since his party came to power in 1979. Details will be released in a consultation paper to be published next week.

Bring back grammar schools has been the cry of the Con-servative right ever since Margaret Thatcher repented over

closing so many.
In a speech last September John Major amed to mark out Conservative education policies from those of Labour. which opposes the selection of pupils by ability, by promising the heads of grant-maintained schools much more freedom to pick their pupils and to main-tain the "ethos" of their schools. The Government circular

which says schools should avoid interviewing pupils would be re-vised, he said, so that heads and governors of popular schools would have more say in deciding who they admitted.

Labour and the local authorities accused the Government of opening the door to social selection. "Maintaining a school's ethos," they said, was just another way of letting oversubscribed schools ensure that they confined their intake to nice middle-class pupils.

So is the return of the grammar school at hand? It is not. As the Department for Education "There is no question of selec-

tion returning to all schools."
Outside 1,100 grant-maintained schools, the Prime Minister's proposals will have little effect. The 23,000 or so schools which remain with local authorities will have only slightly more opportunity to select pupils than they do now.

Local authority schools are

allowed by law to select 10 per cent of their pupils for special aptitude in sport, drama, music, technology or modern lan-guages. Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, said last November that there would be a small increase in these schools to 15 per cent. But local authorities will re-

main firmly in control of the admissions policies of their schools. These will have no more opportunity than they do at present to select pupils whether by entrance exam or interview. As one Whitehall source said: "We are moving the goal posts slightly, not digging up the pitch."

Even for grant-maintained schools, the change will be com-paratively small. They may be able to become selective without having to get the permission of the Secretary of State.

A number have already applied for and obtained that

make it easier for church grant-maintained schoolterview would-be ap likely to have much ef The circular barr.ne

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cil cov ු

Most parents are less c cerned about the return grammar schools than about difficulty of getting their chil. into the school of their cl The new consultation .

Choice on merit keeps comprehensive spirit

Reading Girls' School decided would remain a true comprehensive, writes Judith Judd. The school opted out of lo-

cal authority control in 1990 so Clare Hallows, the head, said: "We applied to the Sec-school choosing the child." retary of State for Education to select one-third of our pupils because we felt that we were not getting our fair share of bright girls. Our intake was not truly

comprehensive. The school of 450 girls had been undersubscribed, but numbers have risen since the move to become partly selective. Pupils are selected by an entrance exam in November.

Mrs Hallows said interviews three years ago to apply to se-might be introduced if the lect some of its pupils so that it school became oversubscribed. "Interviews may be a good way for a parent to ensure that a school is the best place for their child. If I were a parent I that it could remain single sex. should like to feel that I was choosing a school, as well as the

> She said there was no question of the school selecting a higher proportion of its pupils than it did at the moment even if the Government changed the rules. "We want to remain a comprehensive school."

Asked about the Government's plans to make it easier for opted out schools to go selective she said no obstacles had been put in her school's way.

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Rising rates of pay the lure for graduates

WENDY BERLINER

Gloomy tales of graduate unemployment in recent years do not appear to be deterring people from applying to university, according to official figures, due to be released later this month, which show demand for places is still buoyant.

At the pre-Christmas closing date for applications to enter university this autumn, 342,000 people had applied, compared with 347,000 at the same time far, far better overall." last year - a 1.5 per cent annu-

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service will spend the rest of the month analysing the figures, but one area that is thought to have experienced a fall in demand is overseas applications.

According to beures released today starting salaries for new graduates are beginning to increase laster than the rise in average earnings - and salaries

Salaries for new graduates are now not far below the earnings average for the workforce as a whole, with a median of banking and finance sector.

Three years after recruitment, graduate salaries have increased by 45 per cent, com-pared with a 10 per cent increase in average earnings over the same period, according to the Association of Graduate Recruiters (AGR).

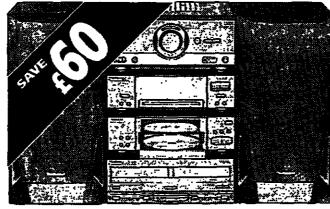
Roly Cockman, executive officer for the association, said yesterday: "Some graduates are unemployed temporarily but their chances of good and worthwhile employment are Recruitment of graduates

was down last year by 2.6 per cent. A 21.5 per cent increase in industrial vacancies for graduates was cancelled out by a fall of 125 per cent in the nonindustrial sector, which recruits a greater number of graduates. Yet more than a quarter of

firms belonging to AGR re-ported they had not recruited all the graduates they needed. This was due in part to firms leaving it until the last minute of graduates employed for to advertise vacancies, but also longer periods show even bigger to difficulties finding candidates with the right mix of per-sonal and academic skills.

AGR members, which include many of Britain's leading businesses, as well as many £14.362and examples as high as smaller ones, are predicting a 13 £22,000 reported from the percent increase in demand for

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.74.99 SONY SAVE £5 SAVE :10

PHILIPS SAVE S

Call to end A-levels A-level exams should be abol-Sir Ron Dearing, the Gov-

ished because they are irrelevant, a former top civil servant said yesterday, writes Judith Judd. Sir Geoffrey Holland, per-

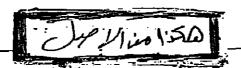
manent secretary at the Department for Education until two years ago and now Vice-Chancellor of Exeter University, said A-levels should be replaced by a single qualificareplaced by a single qualifica-tion to end a divide between vo-cational and the administration of the properties of the control of the cont

England education conference. comes as Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, is reviewing qualifications for 16-19-year-olds.

ernment's chief exams adviser. whose report will be published in March, is expected to recommend ways of bridging the gap between academic and vocational courses but to stop

short of abolishing A-levels, Sir Geoffrey outlined a list of reforms to help improve its educutional performance.

cational and academic courses. hind continental equivalents His speech, to the North of and never each up," he said, advocating a move away from an age-related system, with pupils taking exams at 16 and 18. Exams should be taken when people were ready to take them.



No gimmicks, but tills ring up £16,000 a minute

The Harrods sale opened yesterday to the sound of pipers serenading French film star Gerard Depardieu and the far sweeter sound of tills ringing up more than £5m.

But while some complained about the absence of real bargains, their actions belied their words as they parted with a quarter of a million pounds in the first half-hour. By noon, the tills were taking £16,000 per minute and the store said turnover was up 8 per cent on last year's sales. The china and glass department did particularly well, with over £100,000 of china sold by lunchtime and

the linen department was also said to have had a good day.

Nearly 2,000 people were
queuing outside by oam but the first to arrive had been Pip Watkins, 20, and Richard Lloyd, 22, Cardiff University students who arrived at

midnight to win a £5 bet. After nine hours of playing snap, reading books and having an argument they suddenly found themselves the centre of attention.

Inside the store, the selling was steady, with the only stampedes occurring as journalists tried to follow Depardicu, who opened the Department where Harrods is exclusively selling the actor's

The famous store banished

Remote Control CD Player ■ Programmable CD. ■ Repeat play Model CDP200. Was £159.99.

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Right on queue: A bargain-hunter waits outside the Knightsbridge store before opening time at 9am yesterday

anything else," said a Harrods spokesman. "We found it was counter-productive because such sale "gimmicks" as a 50 people would converge on the same item and we decided

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LEMOTE CONTROL ORTABLE CD SYSTEM local OTCD 177, Was 1 (2)

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SHARP SAVE 10

SALE PRICE

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for £50 several years ago. "It it was better to give more people the chance of getting the same products." But Betheney Bernard. from Buckinghamshire, was disappointed at the lack of traditional bargains.

exposure modes.

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Bernard, "they are only offering 30 to 40 per cent off. Other stores are offering 50

But Erica Fiber of Hendon. who has attended the first day you do in out-of-town shops."

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PHILIPS SAVE 12

£499.99

£**529**.99

SAVE £50

£15.99

SAVE 3

"To be honest," said Ms of the sales religiously for the past ten years, was content with her bargain - a £160 Yarell jacket that had originally cost £320: "You can

JVĆ

SONY

SONY

RADIO CASSETTES

SHARP OF INTEREST

But for those still looking for a real bargain, at least one remains. A diamond and yellow sapphire bracelet, once owned by Eva Peron [reduced from £150,000 to £75,000] was get cheaper stuff here than still waiting to be snapped up.

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Stress in the workplace: How families help shoulder burden

Wives 'hit harder than husbands by redundancy'

BARRIE CLEMENT

The wives of senior executives who are made redundant with substantial severance payments are under more strain than their husbands, a British Psychological Society conference was told yesterday.

Anya Johnson, of Chester College wide all the reduced to the strain of the st

College, said all the redundant men believed they were supported by their partners, but only about one in 10 wives thought their husbands were a

source of emotional support. Where the relationship was rigid, traditional and authoritarian" and the woman was unhappy with the status quo. then the loss of a partner's job could be "highly stressful".
"Families tend to operate in

the best interests of the man, but it puts a lot of strain on the woman," Ms Johnson reported in a paper to the society's annual occupational psychology conference in Eastbourne.

She interviewed 26 couples where the male had earned an average £53,000 a year and had received a pay-off of £95,000. One of the reasons why the male partner was not under unbearable strain was that in each case he had the benefit of an "outplacement" counsellor who was commissioned to help him until he found employ-

The study found that women who were employed were under the greatest strain. They felt the need to combine the role of breadwinner with that of "sup-porter". They also felt that they on greater responsibility for

were doing neither particularconscious that their income was not sufficient to meet their families' needs and did not feel protected by their husband's

verance payment.
Ms Johnson, who wrote the paper with Paul Jackson, of Sheffield University, said the traditional management career had been transformed during the 1990s. The 1980s had seen a "blue-coliar recession", but the 1990s had brought the era of the "dumpie" - downward-ly mobile professional. The slow but steady eco-

nomic growth that initially promised a way out of the recession, had not been matched by a growth in jobs, the authors said. Previously immune whitecollar workers were losing their jobs and finding it increasingly difficult to replace them.

The researchers argued that while studies had concentrated on the plight of those made redundant, it was also necessary to take into account the impact on families. Outplacement consultancies could do much to reduce the strain.

Research had shown that families responded to a period of unemployment by two methods: "assimilation" and "accommodation". Under the assimilation response, families continued with existing relationships because unemployment was viewed as temporary. Where a family accommodated the fact that the male breadwinner was out of work, he took

'Blame culture' that stifles the creative impulse

Some mistakes are "stupid" and others "intelligent", according to an occupational psychology firm, writes Barrie

Clement. Wearing a black bra under a white blouse, or spelling rabbit with three "Bs" are just plain daft, but we can learn from other types of error, according to the Oxford-based consultants Pearn Kandola.

Based on an analysis of a series of articles in the Independent on Sunday, with the theme "My biggest mistake", psychologists Michael Pearn, Chris Mulrooney and Tim Payne concluded that it was time organisations found a more positive way of dealing with mistakes.

Referring to them as "failures, boobs, slip-ups and disasters" was not helpful, and

reprimanding employees often meant that creativity was stifled. Fear of committing errors at work discouraged experimentation and helped to produce a blame culture". But mistakes could constitute "powerful and

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ference of the British Psychological Society.

One "intelligent" mistake, revealed in the Independent on Sunday, took place in 1983 when businessman Peter Webber turned down an opportunity to invest in the Chicago Rib chain restaurants. Within six months

the Shacks were catering for 8,000 customers a week at £12a-head, and by 1987 were making a profit of more than £1m a year. Mr Webber says he is highly unlikely to make a similar mistake again.

Gerald Ratner, the jeweller, conceded he was wrong to expand into the United States. He wrote the piece before he famously conceded that his chain of shops sold "crap" - arguably one of the seminal errors

committed by a businessman. The psychologists said that "intelligent" mistakes can be made through a lack of clear goals, information overload, making assumptions, and concentrating on part of the information. People also slip up if they take decisions under stress, or fail to monitor situations. All of which, the consultants say, are

Farm hopes to cash in on giant salmon

which grow 10 times faster than mally kept in check into normal are being created by scientists in Scotland, it was reported vesterday. The scientists are injecting 10,000 salmon eggs at a hatchery on Loch Fyne with genes from another fish to accelerate their growth.

unique learning opportunities",

according to a paper presented by the consultants to the annu-

al occupational psychology con-

The Scottish fish-farming industry hopes the salmon will become money-spinning giants, according to a report in New Scientist magazine.

Conservationists fear that if the fish escape, they could en-danger wild salmon in the North Atlantic.

The growth genes were discovered accidentally by scientists at the Memorial University of Newfoundland when they were trying to produce salmon which can tolerate cold winters.

They were experimenting with a so-called "anti-freeze" gene which lowers the freezing point of the fish's blood. In salmon the gene had the unexpected effect of putting a

Genetically altered salmon growth hormone which is noroverdrive.

Only some salmon were affected. But those that were grew 10 times faster than normal. Now Otter Ferry Salmon. a company on Loch Fyne which produces eggs for the fish farming industry, has bought the technique and the services of the scientists to test the commercial potential.



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War papers: Secret memos reveal how bitter memories of Dunkirk influenced Churchill's decision not to help Leopold III return from exile



King Leopold of Belgium: Branded a coward for his neutralist stance

Allies' dilemma over 'cowardice' of Belgian king

decided on the latter.

telegram said: The essential thing is that if the king returns

to Belgium he should not arrive in the country in a Shaef [Allied

military command] vehicle or

companied in his drive into

Brussels by any Allied officers or personnel. His journey and

arrival should be a purely Belgian affair - signed WSC."
Churchill's feelings towards

the king were influenced by a

secret memo which Leopold

had smuggled out of Lacken be-

aircraft, or be escorted or ac-

JOHN CROSSLAND

Bitter memories of the débacle of May 1940 when King Leopold III's surrender of the Belgian army jeopardised the Dunkirk evacuation and branded him a coward, influenced Winston Churchill's decision to refuse to help the king to return to his country after his release from German captivity.

In a personal minute be went so far as to tell the Foreign Secretary, Anthony Eden: "I agree that our influence in so far as it can be properly exerted should be against the return of

the Belgian king."
Churchill's and Eden's contempt for the king's neutralist stance and capitulation, in stark

A week later Chur contrast to his father, King Albert's stand in 1914, is vented in startling language in secret memoranda from the closing months of the war, which emerged yesterday in a release of the 50-year state papers at the Public Record Office in Kew, south-west London.

The British government faced a dilemma with the impending release of Leopold and his family, including his son and heir, Baudouin, who had been taken from house arrest in their palace at Lacken near Brussels on 7 June 1944, and flown, as hostages, to the security of a castle near Heidelburg.

surrendered unconditionally - opening a vital flank through VI and which finally arrived in Britain via Field Marshall Montgomery's private pouch. Intended as a statement of which the Germany army flooded up to the Dunkirk bridge-Leopold's aims for Belgium afhead - to return to a country ter his return, it angered both which his behaviour, including a visit to Hitler at Berchtes-garten, had left bitterly divided, the British and the Belgians, for its total lack of regret, or per-sonal accountability, for the Or whether it was more politic events of May 1940. to steer clear of this minefield in newly liberated Europe. He

Churchill wrote to Eden in October 1944: "I confide this The Prime Minister received particular king to your care and that of the Foreign Office. a personal telegram from Gen-In the days of the Spanish Ineral Eisenhower on 9 June quisition the Holy Office, in 1945, stating: "Continued uncertainty as to the future of the handing over any persons they had examined to the Secular Belgian king appears a possible arm, used always to recom-mend that they should be treatcause of military embarrass-ment, particularly if he asks to ed with all possible tenderness A week later Churchill signed and that above all there should a personal telegram which was sent by the Foreign Office to Sir H Knatchbull-Hugessen, British ambassador in Brussels. The be no effusion of blood. They

were invariably burnt alive. "I agree with you about the poor showing which King Leopold made before the war and the ingratitude with which he treated the British and French who had left a million graves in his country. He was not the only one in Belgium who fell into this error."

The upshot was that Leopold retired to Switzerland. On 12 March 1950, a popular refer-endum resulted in 57.7 per cent in favour of his return and he came back to Belgium on 22 July 1950. He devolved his constitutional powers on to Bau-Churchill had to decide fore his deportation to Gerdouin, finally abdicating whether to help a man who had many, marked for King George formally on 16 July, 1951.

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Winston Churchill: Refused to help Belgian king Photographs: Hulton Deut

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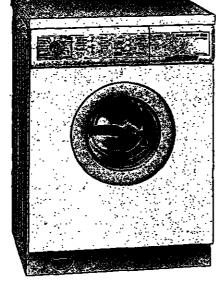
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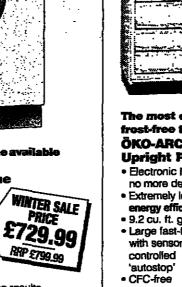






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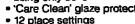
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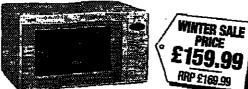
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Government planned to deport Mosley

A startling revelation from the 50-year-old papers is that Churchill's government planned to deport Sir Oswald Mosley and his wife after their arrest under the 18b Special Powers Regulations for securing potential traitors, writes John Crossland. Sir Oswald was arrested at his

London home on 23 May 1940. his British Union of Fascists was dissolved and, together with many of his supporters, he was placed in Brixton prison.

An anonymous security memorandum dated 10 July. 1940 told the prime minister: "Lord Swinton and his executive of the Special Warfare Executive) are very anxious if possible to deport overseas certain leaders of the British Union of Fascists, including Mosley and his wife. "The chief reason is that it

has come to their certain knowledge that Mosley and these leaders fear deportation to quite an inexplicable degree, unless they believe there to be some plot on hand to liberate them from jail for the purpose of starting serious trouble. "At present 400 of these fas-

cist organisers are held together in two jails where the warders and police are understood to be unarmed. It has already been represented to the Home Office that this seems an undue risk to be run. These people are just nasty gangsters who will stick at nothing and who, if they were



Sal

dete

Mosley: 'Nasty gangster'

arrested by gangster methods, would doubtless be rounded up in due course. They might do a great deal of damage and would certainly cause a grave scandal in the meantime.

"It is hoped that the War Office will shortly arrange to take these persons over and keep them under strong military armed care. Even so, it would be better to remove them from the country, especially as this is clearly the last thing they want to happen.
"The trouble is that the law

of the land as it stands prohibits the forcible deportation of any British subject. The Home Office have been invited to examine the legal position and put forward a recommendation for sufficient alteration of the law to permit the deportation of Mosley and company ...

DAILY POEM The Wedding Guest's Story

By Kate Clanchy

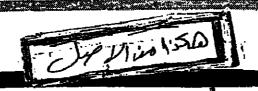
Shortly after ditching me, a matter of weeks, in point of fact, she bought a remarkable backless dress and got hitched to an ex-army chap who climbs up rocks on Sundays: not the sort,

that chap, if I might explain, to stop for stragglers or to soak up sun. He'd strike for the top in skin tight kit, lycra shorts and pick, straining straps around the crotch. In spite of which,

I took the half-meant invite straight, sat tight throughout, let that dress flash a foot of flesh to the hushed cathedral, and in my mind I slowly climbed the low, secret steps of her spine.

swung for a while on my rope in the tuck of her waist, scrambled sweating, swearing, over the slopes of her shoulder blades, to slump on the summit, weak, sobbing with loss,

Kate Clanchy was born in Glasgow in 1965. She was educated in Edinburgh and Oxford and now lives in East London where she works as a schoolleacher. The recipient of a Gregory Award in 1994, her work appeared last year in Anvil New Poets 2, and a first collection, Slattern (Chatto, £6.99), from which this poem is taken, is published today. Wry, bold and witty, Clanchy's verse is rooted in the vernacular: men and boys; clothes, shoes and hats; love, loss, confusion; most cleverly, a pungent and sensuous treatment of the smells of life.



Help for the homeless: Russian capital plans shelters for some of the thousands who sleep rough in sub-zero temperatures



Moscow's legion of despair detects a glimmer of hope

Threatened by tuberculosis, low temperatures and an assortment of other nasty conditions, Russia's homeless have begun the New Year with a small glimmer of hope - the announcement that moves are finally planned in Moscow to provide roofs over their heads.

The city authorities say they will open 10 shelters this year for the growing army of people living on the streets, including some who lost their homes and jobs in the slump following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The initiative sounds like a drop in the ocean until it is compared with present arrangements: the entire metropolis has one government-run hostel for the bomeless, with room for 24 people. Some 250,000 people bunk down every night in sta-tions, doorways, heating vents, or anywhere else that affords shelter from the deadly -20C temperatures.

They include Andrei, sitting yesterday in the grimy walkway

Escort dare

crippled legs folded beneath him, waiting for a glimmer of charity from the sea of commuters which swept endlessly past, back at work for the first day after the New Year.

Changes in the calendar matter far less to this 20-year-old invalid than the contents of his plastic bag, his version of a beg-ging bowl, which sits at his feet not far from the spot on the pavement at which he stares without interruption, not even lifting his face when a few hundred roubles flutter down from a passer by. "They say it is the strongest who survive, and the weaker who die. He says this with such an air of misery that one need not ask which category

he places himself in. Five years ago, in Soviet times, Andrei - who spends his nights in railway stations could not have lived as he now does. Homelessness was illegal: police from the Interior Ministry patrolled the streets, dispatching vagrants to jail-like hostels. In Moscow, the penalty for being found more than twice in a year without an address or doc-

was scrapped. The number of vagrants has since swelled steadily as the economy declined. Charity workers say four out of five are men, usually hetween 25 and 40, including many from the ex-Soviet republics. They come in the belief that Moscow is, if not paved with gold, at least a dependable

source of employment. What they discover, however, is a world where it is infinitely easier to develop tuberculosis, lice or scables - or to receive a beating from the police - than it is to secure a job. So they often turn to begging.
But Russia's homeless

known as bomzhi (a police acronym for someone with no fixed address: bez opredely-onnogo mesta zhitelstva) do not always conform to the caricature of the criminal, habitually vagrant, Western hobo, even though about 20 per cent are exconvicts. "We quite often have people who have universitylevel education and who had a job and lost it," said Siobhan Keegan, medical co-ordinator with Medecins sans Frontières

family car.

In December 1993 the law (MSF), which runs several medical centres for the homeless in

In Soviet times, the authorities instructed businesses to employ and house vagrants, no matter how ill-suited they were to work. Now, privatised companies welcome the prospect of a bomzhi worker with about as much relish as a tax demand. and rarely take them on. Andrei had seven years of secondary education before being injured in a bad fall: "Who will take me as a worker? You have to be able

to do something. News that the city is finally moving to provide shelters elicited no more than a shrug from him. Nor was Miss Kecgan popping open the cham-pagne, although she gave the announcement a cautious welcome: "We would be very happy if they can do something, but our experience here has taught us to adopt a wait-and-see attitude." An announcement by Itar-Tass news agency underlines her point. "Yeltsin orders an end to vagrancy and begging," it trumpets. But it was dated 3 No-

Sarajevo powerless

On the scrap-heap: A Russian vagrant picking through a rubbish dump

Saraievo

ted detaining a number of Bosnian citizens travelling through enemy territory along roads into Sarajevo supposedly secured by Nato troops, prompting the first real test for the peace force and an argu-ment over the division of mili-

v≥ of the 16 people identified by the government as detainees have been freed. And while a spokesman for Nato's peace implementamovement was an issue for Carl Bildt's civilian mission, he

Under intense questioning from journalists, spokesmen for 1-For, which is responsible for creating a secure environment across Bosnia, insisted the matter should be dealt with by the civilian mission, which is to include an international police force. Mr Bildt, its boss, finally arrived in Sarajevo yesterday, lagging behind the military by two weeks and complaining of

slow start, but said I-For ought to help fill the vacuum. Until his police force is operating, "it is important that all of the available resources here are used to try and secure freedom of movement", Mr Bildt said.

His first stop would be a visit to the I-For commander, Admiral Leighton Smith, in Sarajevo, to discuss the plight of the detainees. "Freedom of movement will have to be guaranteed one way or the other, and we would have to use those assets that are in place in order to try and ensure that freedom

of movement." he said. William Perry, the US Defense Secretary, who also visited Sarajevo yesterday, agreed. "It's very important that the po-

lice force gets in and established ... as soon as possible. In the meantime, Nato's force will do

Mr Perry, the most senior US politician to visit Bosnia in wartime, was optimistic about I-For's mission. "We've got peace breaking out, we've got Nato on the ground," he said. In an attempt to improve the efficiency of those forces, alliance troops manning the road convoys of three to four cars to prevent further abductions. Lieutenant-General Sir

Nato land forces in Bosnia. tentions with the Serb mayor of Ilidza, Nedzeljko Prstojevic, at a lunch-time meeting yesterday. We have agreed that the question, in so far as it affects the peace agreement is unsatis-factory," the general said afterwards. "The mayor quite understands that the requirements of the Dayton peace agreement are such that there is to be total freedom of movement throughout the country. This is clearly not the case."

Mr Prstojevic, wearing army fatigues, said: "The implementation of the peace accord is gradual, but for the time being citizens are allowed to move along agreed roads," he said, in direct contradiction of Gen Walker. "There will not be any problems if civilians use the nor-

Mr Prstojevic refused to give names or numbers for those detained, but said all but three had been released "or are now leaving prison". The three, held at Kula prison and charged with unspecified crimes relating to smuggling, illegal trade and mistreating an old woman, had ventured off the main road

However, Bosnian officials said none of those detained had been released by nightfall. An I-For spokesman, Lt-Col Mark Rayner, said Nato was "very concerned" about their safety, but defended I-For against charges of laxity over security

"Can we be expected to prevent every lawless act that might occur in any other country in the world?" Admiral Smith asked. Observers were surprised to hear what seems to be a systematic policy, enacted by Serb police along old and familiar lines, described in such terms.

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detentions leave Nato

EMMA DALY

TIME!!

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Serb officials yesterday admitwhat it can to assist."

tary and civilian responsibilities. Despite a high-level meeting through Ilidza are now advising between a Nato commander Bosnian civilians to travel in tion force (1-For) said free raised the issue of illegal de-

urged the military to intervene. The Serbs did release three elderly Bosnians who strayed into enemy territory late on Tuesday, but they were not among the 16 listed as missing.

At a 15-minute meeting yesterday between the two parties the Serbs offered to swap those arrested in a prisoner-of-war exchange, according to a source close to the talks. The Bosnian government refused the offer. "They are all civilians," the source said indignantly.

mal routes." a lack of resources. He accepted criticism of his

along the road.

Michael Walker, commander of very far into Serb territory".

Two British soldiers injured in blast

Sarajevo — Two British soldiers were wounded yesterday in an explosion while working to convert a hotel complex in lidza to serve as the headquarters for Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Walker, commander of Nato land forces in Bosnia, writes Emma Daly.

Their Injuries were not thought to be life-threatening, and the two men, who were not named, were treating, and the Toppen Sold hospital on Mount Issues.

ed at a French field hospital on Mount Igman, west of Sarajevo. I-For officials do not know if they triggered a land-mine or unexploded ordnance.

 Between 3 million and 6 million mines were planted by all parties in the Bosnian war. Often unmarked or used as booby-traps, they pose a major threat to the 60,000strong peace force pouring into Bosnia. Troops have received special training in mine avoidance and detection.

Arafat's guards hold top rights activist

ERIC SILVER Jerusalem

Palestinian security forces, who last week detained an Arabic newspaper editor for disobeying orders to put a story in praise of Yasser Arafat on the front

page, have struck again.
On Tuesday night they seized
Bassam Eid, a leading Arab
human rights activist, from his home in an East Jerusalem refugee camp. Last night Pales-tinian spokesmen were denying all knowledge of his where-

Mr Eid, 36, the father of eight children, made his name as a fearless field worker for the Israeli human rights organisa-tion B'tselem. Throughout the seven years of the intifada, he was responsible for reports highlighting Israeli human rights violations. Since the Oslo peace agreement in September 1993, he has focused on abuses by the Palestinian security services.

Yesterday Mr Eid was allowed to telephone B'tselem. He told the organisation that he had been detained by Force 17, Mr Arafat's élite personal guard, and taken to Ramallah, 18 miles north of Jerusalem, which reverted to Palestinian rule last week.

By last night, nothing more had been heard of him. A spokesman for the Palestinian National Authority denied that Force 17 was responsible, and blamed the arrest on "uncontrolled elements".

Mr Eid's latest dossier, published last August, listed dozens of cases in which the Palestinian Preventive Security Service kidnapped and tortured West Bank Palestinians living in areas

Alami, who was released after six days. "It shows," Mr Eid told reporters, "that Yasser Arafat doesn't care about the freedom of the press."

He has also worked with a team from the Paris-based media defence group Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF), which is monitoring the 20 January Palestinian legislative elections. Last weekend they severely criticised public-sector Palestinian radio and television for denying opposition candidates a fair share of their campaign coverage. Mr Eid endorsed their criticism.

The human rights activist has frequently been threatened by both Israelis and Palestinians, but this is the first time he has been taken into custody. Yizhar Be'er, B'tselem's executive director, said: "We are very concerned about Palestinian respect for human rights. We hold the Palestinian authorities responsible for Bassam's safety and for his early release. His arrest is entirely unacceptable.'

Thierry Cruvellier, head of the RSF monitoring team, protested to Mr Arafat. "We have been trying all day to get more information on where he is detained and when he will be released," he said last night. "But so far we have heard nothing more."

Mr Cruvellier suspected the arrest was linked to Mr Eid's censure of the editor's detention.

Nabatiyeh, Lebanon (AP) Israel yesterday released five Lebanese prisoners from the noin the occupied southern Lebanon border enclave. The five had been held for more than five years by the Israeli-allied still controlled by Israel. Last South Lebanon Army militia on week he condemned the arrest suspicion of launching guerrilof the Palestinian editor, Maher la attacks on Israeli forces.



In the frame: A printer loads campaign posters yesterday for the Palestinian elections Photograph: Jacqueline Arzt/AP

Confusion over Kashmir hostages

Srinagar — The fate of the four Western tourists held hostage in Kashmir, including two Britons, continues to hang in the balance, writes Mukhtar Ahmad. The Al-Faran kidnap group yesterday expressed "surprise" over an official statement that the hostages were sighted in the village of Hakura Budsgam in South Kashmir. The Al-Faran statement alleged that "the sighting of the tourists at Hakura is understandable since the Indian army has a big camp at this village". The group insisted the "four foreign hostages were taken overby the Indian army in an encounter with the Al-Faran on 4 December last year at the village of Dabran in South Kashmir". Meanwhile in the centre of New Delhi a bomb killed at least six people and seriously wounded about 20. In Srinagar a man claiming to speak for the Jammu and Kashmir Islamic Front, a little known separatist group, claimed responsibility for detonating the device in Delhi's crowded Qutub Road area.

Papandreou may seek treatment in US

Athens - Doctors were examining the possibility of flying the ailing Greek Prime Minister, Andreas Papandreou, to the United States for further treatment. A State Department official said that although an airlift request had not yet been made, American medical specialists were being sent to examine Mr Papandreou. Now in his seventh week in critical condition in hosnital. Mr Papandreou has suffered heavy damage to his kidneys, the latest medical bulletin said. The ruling socialists are divided over whether to find a successor or wait in the unlikely event that Mr Papandreou will be able to resume his duties.

Tourists kidnapped in Costa Rica

San Jose - A group of at least 10 armed men kidnapped two European women from a hotel in northern Costa Rica on Tuesday, police said. The kidnappers demanded a \$1m (£650,000) ransom. Nichola Fleuchaus of Germany and Regula Susana Sigfried of Switzerland were seized in San Carlos, near the Nicaraguan border. Police believe they were taken to nearby mountains. AF

Expelled charity told of Rwanda atrocities
Paris — The charity Médecins Sans Frontières, one of 43 aid agencies expelled from Rwanda, said its French wing was thrown out for reporting atrocities committed by the authorities. The Rwandan government ordered the foreign aid agencies out of the country last month, saying they had failed to register.

Reuter

Toddler dies under snowman

Zurich — A Swiss man building a snowman buried and killed his two-year-old daughter. Police believe the man, from Bauma near Zurich, accidently rolled a big ball of snow over the girl. She died

Singapore's £9bn plan to to curb the car

STEPHEN VINES Hong Kong

Singapore's ever-vigilant planners have decided that more than £9bn should be spent on an ultra-modern public transport system aimed at virtually eliminating the car from the island state.

The use of cars, already a luxury in Singapore, will increasingly be discouraged by heavier taxes and electronic road-pricing systems. While other countries, including the United Kingdom, have shunned railway development because of the high cost of construction, the Singaporcans see no alternative to the reliability and speed of railways and their kindness to the environment.

The aim, outlined in a 72page White Paper, is not only to create an expanded domestic transport network but to provide the basis for an electric rail link stretching through Malaysia to Thailand. The railway will be integrated with Singapore's new, but as yet relatively small, mass rapid transit underground system and the light rail system, used for shorter journeys.

The standard of buses will be upgraded to create what is described as a more customer-oriented service. Bus flow would be improved by satellite-assisted tracking systems to improve

As for cars, the planners have found to their dismay that despite Singapore's small size -

highest in the world. They explain this by saying that car own-ers are more likely to use their vehicles, as they have had to pay

such a high price to buy them. Despite the war on car use, this week's White Paper reluctantly concedes that by 2010 one in seven Singaporeans will own a car, compared with the current ratio of one in ten.

One method of providing a form of private transport, while discouraging car use, will be to offer "car-like" taxi services, with taxis given guidance on the best routes by satellite. The high price of the new

transport infrastructure will be met by taxpayers financing the construction cost and the purchase of equipment such as trains, while the operating cost should be covered by fares. Car users will contribute heavily, both by having to bid for licences to buy cars and by the road tolls imposed through an electronic road-pricing system. Londoners may be puzzled by Singapore's belief that their city's mass transit system should serve as a model. Presumably Singapore will not be aiming to replicate some of the planning chaos surrounding the London Underground, but, in its characteristically determined way, the government will ensure that property and transport development proceed hand in hand.

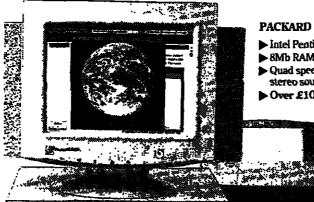
Although the expenditure for the new system is vast - over £30,000 per head of the population - it embraces many developments which are already about the same as the Isle of on the stocks and, over 20 Wight - the average mileage of years, should be easy enough to

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Secret of the 'Asia tigers' lures UK leaders

STEVE CRAWSHAW AND JOHN RENTOUL

Traditionally, New Year is a time for Britons to start grasping for travel brochures and dreaming of trips to far-flung parts. The politicians, it seems, share this seasonal wanderlust.

The Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, is just one of a rights. The imprisonment for 14 clutch of senior politicians to head east this week - arriving in Hong Kong at the weekend, and travelling from there to China. Tony Blair, the Labour leader, is on his way to Tokyo and Singapore. Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, is in South Korea, heading for

n Casta Aica

2 (10 pm)

As befits his position, Mr Rifkind's visit is relatively unencumbered by party politics. His concern is, above all, preparation for the smooth handover of Hong Kong to China in 18 months' time. After some renewed tensions in recent months - including the summoning of the acting Chinese ambassador in London over abusive remarks made about the Governor of Hong Kong, Chris Patten - the Chinese have become almost courteous. British officials praise the "reasonably positive mood" in Peking, while

simultaneously urging caution. Mr Rifkind's visit is intended to "reassure people in Hong Kong and the international community". Certainly, reassurance is still needed. As Hong Kong's D-Day approaches, China's intentions remain as un- for example, come almost as an

has much influence on China's behaviour. London must rely, in effect, on Peking behaving de-

cently of its own accord. China's behaviour in recent weeks has made it clear that it still takes scant notice of interyears of the leading dissident, Wei Jingsheng, caused worries in Hong Kong, because of the implications for the colony. Mr Patten insisted that "our patience, while legendary, is not infinite". Martin Lee, leader of Hong Kong's Democratic Party, noted sceptically that Mr Paten would be "judged by

Mr Rifkind's main purpose is to consolidate relations, not to put Peking under pressure. Of-ficials in London insist that there is "no daylight whatsoev-er" between Mr Patten and the British Government. But Mr Patten's tone has often been brusquer than that of the Foreign Office. The British believe that it is "a great pity" that China excluded leading local de-mocrats from its key Preparatory Committee, which is due to steer Hong Kong through the transition from British to Chinese rule. But Mr Rifkind will not press the point at his meetings in Peking next

One reason for British circumspection - references to the imprisonment of Mr Wei, to Singapore, where he will

clear as ever. Britain almost openly admits that it no longer afterthought - is the lure of Chinese business, which no Western country wants to lose. This, in a sense, is the common factor in all this week's long-haul

> The lessons of Asian business will be on Mr Blair's agenda, when he begins a four-day swing today through Japan and Singapore to underline his message that Asian economic success is underpinned by investment in "human capital".

Contradicting recent Conservative claims that the success of the "Asian tigers" can be put down to low taxes and deregulated markets, Mr Blair will focus on policies for education and "lifelong learning".

In a speech in Tokyo tomorrow, Mr Blair is expected to de-scribe the globalisation of economies as the defining challenge of our time, with "enormous potential for good, but also displacing people and industries and causing job insecurity".

In meeting this challenge, he believes "left-of-centre thinking across the world" has to be "reshaped", a spokesman for the Labour leader said yesterday. stressing low inflation, open trade, "proper" infrastructure, public-private partnerships, internationally competitive tax rates, regulation that is not rigid and bureaucratic and. above all, investment in people as our main resource".

On Sunday Mr Blair travels also talk to business leaders, and



Hand of friendship: Michael Portillo is welcomed in Manila by his Philippines counterpart,

Howard Davies, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, as well as that of Chris Smith, Mr Blair's social security spokesman, who is looking at

the Singapore welfare system. Mr Portillo, meanwhile, has been in the Philippines and arrives in South Korea today, before flying to Tokyo at the Asia rather than Europe

where his path will cross that of the Central Provident Fund of weekend. The official focus of his trip is "security and stability in the region". But he and other Euro-sceptics have made no secret of their firm belief that

holds the key to success. The agenda of the third Cabinet member in Asia - Michael Howard, the Home Secretary is rather different. He is now in India, and will move on to Pak-

istan, to hold a series of meetings with senior officials, on problems associated with immigration into the UK. Not so much learning lessons as deliv-

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Clarke picks historic day for Argentine trip

Was the timing coincidence, or Menem, the Argentine press was Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, sending some kind of signal over the future of the Falkland Islands? writes Phil Davison.

His visit to Buenos Aires this week, the first by a senior minister since the 1982 Falklands war, was to discuss trade and investment. But his meeting with President Carlos Menem and ministers yesterday came on rather a special day. On 3 January 1833, a British fleet told the Argentines they should leave the South Atlantic islands known to mainlanders as Las Malvinas. As far as Argentina is concerned, it was the original British occupation of the Falklands which eventually

led to the war of 1982.

carried the Foreign Ministry's annual statement reaffirming Argentina's sovereignty over the islands. Argentina intends to continue talks with the United Kingdom with the aim of reaching new agreements in the south-west Atlantic".

The Falkland islanders expressed concern over Mr Clarke's timing, as they did over the visit to Argentina in November by the Princess of Wales. They felt the astute Mr Menem used the visit by the Princess to further Argentina's sovereignty claim. Mr Clarke led a high-pow-

ered business delegation to Argentina, aimed mainly at increasing investment in the country, especially in newly-As the Chancellor met Mr privatised utilities.

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£10.000 +		4.50	3.38
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	INTEREST %	%	INTEREST %
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Butterflies die by the million in freezing Mexican forest

PHIL DAVISON Latin America Correspondent

Between 20 and 30 million of the world's most beautiful butterflies, of the North American Monarch species, may have been wiped out by snow and freezing weather this week in the Mexican mountain forest where they spend the winter.

Mexican ecologists who visited the Oyamel fir forest in the state of Michoacan reported that at least a third, possibly half, of the estimated 60 million hibernating Monarchs had frozen to death or been buried under a foot of snow.

The picturesque orange-andblack butterflies are renowned for their 3,000-mile odyssey from the northern United States and Canada to the same Mexican forest every winter, taking up to three months at 30 miles a day and an altitude of

"The situation is devastating," said Homero Aridjis, a Mexican poet and leader of the "Group of 100" lobby of environmen-"Two of our biologists visited the butterflies' winter reserves and estimated that at least one-third had been wiped winter, a visitor examines victims of the cold snap

on the fir trees and buried in the snow. It's possible up to half of

Last flutter: In the fir forest where the butterflies

Monarchs, known to science as of their reserves, which is re-Danaus plexippus, are not en-dangered as a species by their the elements, Mr Aridjis said. dangered as a species by their latest losses. They are more

threatened by increased logging

conditions are good on their way back to the north, he added. An unusually had snowstorm which occurred in 1992 wiped out at least 70 per cent of the hibernating Monarchs in Michoacan state, but the butterflies are already close to their previous levels. After flying down in October from as far north as Ontario, the

square miles of forest west of Mexico City on mountains that reach more than 10,000ft. Visitors who trek to see them in normal weather are stunned by a solid landscape of orange and black as the butterflies cover the ground and trees. If disturbed, they almost black out the sky and sound like a heavy drizzle as they flutter in

their millions.

It is impossible to visit the area without trampling hun-dreds, if not thousands of Monarchs underfoot, since they also cover all pathways, a dilemma which has led Mr Aridjis's

Picnickers who play lond mu-sic and leave litter also endan-They will probably restore their numbers quickly if breeding ger the butterflies, but their biggest problem of recent years has been the gradual defor-estation of the area by loggers. The local Oyamel fir trees

usually act as an umbrella for the butterflies against heavy rains and rarer snow storms such as the one last weekend. On their flight from the

north-eastern US and Canada the butterflies stick to the US Monarchs settle beneath the normal snow line over several east coast and invariably make a "pit stop" around St Marks in Florida to gorge themselves on milkweed, which will give them enough body fat to survive the While milkweed's poisonous

sap is avoided by most other creatures, it is absorbed by the Monarchs and gives them a nat-ural defence against predators. Monarchs often live up to 10

months, mostly surviving the epic journey south but dying while laying their eggs along the Gulf coast of the US — in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alaba-ma or Florida — on their more westerly return trip.



Light fantastic: Monarchs at rest on a snow-decked branch. It is estimated that 20 to 30 million of them died in cold weather at the weekend Photographs: AP

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Budget row throws US embassies into chaos

JOHN CARLIN Washington

> Drinking water deliveries to US diplomats in Havana have been stopped because last month's bill went unpaid. The US embassy in Hanoi has been warned to pay up £1,000 in over-due electricity payments or the power will be cut off.

> Because of the government cash freeze resulting from the inability of Congress and the White House to agree on a national budget, American diplomatic missions are in turmoil, unable to come up with the cash to pay for local services and locally-hired staff. In Mexico, where people carry resentment against the United States in their bones, newspaper com-mentators have been chortling at the embarrassment of Uncle

Sam, prompting a huffy response from the US Embassy "The embassy wishes to make it clear," a statement said, "that this situation arises from the constitutional definitions of how the United States budget is passed into law, and does not represent any fundamental inability of the United States of

America to pay its bill."

A senior official at the State Department suggested, however, that the caricature of the US as a giant "banana republic" is not all that far off the mark. Richard Moose, undersecretary of state for manage-ment, told the Washington Post; "My threshold of believing what can't happen is getting lower all the time."

The point has been reached, for example, where American embassies are unable to pay for the meals of their Marine guards. In Colombia, consular officials deployed to deal with the families of the victims of last week's American Airlines plane crash worked officially as volunteers, because there was no

money to pay their wages.

If the US is becoming a laughing stock overseas, at home there is growing outrage, not least because the congress-men responsible for the government shut-down (yesterday into its 19th day) continue to receive their wages on time and. in some cases, to venture off on foreign trips.

Few are more outraged than the government workers, 760,000 of whom have not been paid since 16 December. The Department of Labour reported yesterday that 95,000 gov-ernment employees had applied for unemployment benefits. Many more have been beseeching their banks for inter-est-free credit to tide them over so they can pay their mort-gages and other bills.

. The fall-out of the wrangling in Washington is affecting a growing number of people

every day. Meals-on-wheels for the elderly are expected to shut down in a dozen states; shortages of food and supplies are being reported in veterans' hospitals and in federal prisons; tourism is suffering, because museums and national parks have been closed and because of the incapacity of foreign embassies to supply visas - US airlines are reporting that their inbound international flights are carrying half the normal

load of passengers.

President Bill Clinton and the leaders of the Republican majorities in the House and Senate, Newt Gingrich and Bob Dole, concluded three hours of talks on Tuesday night. They re-ported no breakthrough, but

constructive progress A concern uppermost in the minds of politicians of all sides is that they should not be iden-



Clinton: Worried about being blamed for mess

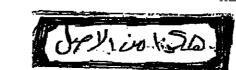
tified as being to blame for the mess. Yesterday it became clear that the greatest stumbling block is the House of Representatives. The Senate voted on Tuesday night for the government to be immediately re-opened and for unpaid staff immediately to receive their overdue cheques, but the House is refusing to go along.

Mr Dole, Mr Clinton's prob-

able presidential rival this year. said enough was enough: "I don't see any sense in what we've been doing." He dis-agreed with Mr Gingrich and his zealous Republican footsoldiers in the House. Mr Gingrich insisted yesterday he would continue to play the shut-down card as a means of pressuring Mr Clinton to accept Republican proposals for balancing the

federal budget by the year 2002. The President rejects the proposals because they would cut social welfare while providing tax breaks for the rich. Mike McCurry, the White House spokesman, yesterday said Mr Gingrich belonged to "a gruesome group" of obstructionist Congressional Republicans, a description which may not have aided the talks Mr Clinton held yesterday with the House Speaker and Mr Dole.

	
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Delors fears Franco-German clash

MARY DEJEVSKY,

Jacques Delors has warned it may no longer be Britain which is the main cause of disunity in the European Union. The Franco-German axis, historically the driving force behind European integration, is itself becoming a

problem, he has cautioned. The New Year in France has brought an icy blast of frankness about the growing instability of the relationship between Bonn and Paris, a subject hitherto thought settled, or too risky to be discussed at all. The former president of the European Commission and the historian François Furet have both said

this week that, whether or not lution, a preponderant Germany could very well be the problem, as it has been before.

For these two figures - one from the left, the other from the right - to sound so public a warning shows the growing con-cern in France. Mr Delors decided last year not to stand for the French presidency race because he feared to inflame the European issue in France.

Reviewing a new book about Europe by Laurent Cohen-Tangui in the magazine Nouvel Observateur yesterday, Mr Delors wrote: "I cannot but approve when the author invites us not to focus more than nec-

Europe turns out to be the so- of Great Britain [about Europe] ... Let us have the courage to recognise that the real risk today is not so much the risk of a Euro-British crisis as that of a

Franco-German split." Interviewed the previous day in the daily newspaper Figuro, Mr Furet said: "France today has two main problems: the first is that of budget deficits ... the other, that of Europe... But these two problems have the

same face: Germany." France's deficit-cutting drive. which provoked the recent public-sector strikes, is partly a response to German dismay at the prospect of a European curprospect of a European cur-rency replacing the strong mark ically united Europe, are more necessary than ever, Mr Delots

essary on the classic reservations without other countries match-

ing German fiscal discipline. Mr Furet added that "120 years after Bismarck and two world wars, we find ourselves facing the very same question that was posed at the end of the last century: how can Europe be made to live when it has such a German preponderance?"

Mr Delors criticises Mr Cohen-Tangui's view that the fall of the Berlin wall called into question the guiding ideas of the European Union's founders. But in maintaining that these principles, above all the desirability of locking Germany into a politically as well as econom-

warns that this project could fail.
"By swinging between the reflex of sovereignty à la anglaise and federalist ambition à la Germany, the native land of Jean Monnet [founding fa-ther of the EU] ... risks dis-couraging those German leaders who have repeatedly and unfailingly shown their allegiance to a European Ger-

Europe." For such an ardent European as Mr Delors even to hazard such a thought in public, even as a pretext for proposing a "European federation of nationstates*, suggests the Franco-German relationship is not as solid as both sides insist.

many rather than a German

Mr Furet's historical allusions drive home the point. The reason why the German problem has returned, he says. is "because Germany is at the centre of Europe, it is the most productive and most populous country, it is unified and, with the end of Communism and for the first time since Peter the Great, it has no counterbalance in the East. We therefore face a Europe in potential, if not real,

is the dominant power." The depth of French fears was clear last year. Successive Franco-German meetings, including two summits held at short notice on French instigation, seemed designed to reas-

disequilibrium, where Germany

sure Germans about France's commitment to Europe under President Jacques Chirac, and its determination to meet the Maastricht criteria for a single

Currency.
However, German concerns about France and Maastricht pale into insignificance compared with France's fears about Germany's commitment to the European project. It fears a Europe so dominated by Germany that it is in effect German; it fears the idea of a federal Europe in which national sovereignty, including that of France, is sacrificed. Above all it fears that if Germany forsakes the single currency, the European project is dead.

Arnhem blast tied to French N-tests

KEIRON HENDERSON

Arnhem - A bomb exploded at a building housing the offices of the French bank Paribas and France's honourary consul in Arnhero. Dutch police said yesterday it may have been a protest against French nuclear

The bomb badly damaged the building and blew out windows up to 100 yards away late on Tuesday night, but no one wainjured, a police spokesman

He added that the damage indicated a fairly large device.
"We haven't had any calls claiming responsibility, although we believe it could be related to protests against French [nuclear) weapons testing in the Pacific. We cannot prove that, but there has been worldwide protest against the French tests and we're guessing there's a link

Benoit Monseignon, chair-man of Banque Paribas NV in the Netherlands, declined to comment on the motive for company was tightening up security at its network of nine Dutch branches, which mainly offer corporate banking. "We're doing what is necessary ... But if someone sends you a bomb in the middle of the night there's not a lot you can do

about it," Mr Monseignon said. The police said they were investigating whether the explo-sion could be linked to a bomb attack last October on the Arnhem office of Crédit Lyonnais, another French bank.

"No one claimed responsibility for that attack and it's a point of the investigation to see whether there is any link," the spokesman said.

Asked about a possible connection to French nuclear weapons testing, a French embassy spokesman in The Hague said: "It's only a possibility. nothing is sure."

The decision by the French President, Jacques Chirac, last year to resume nuclear tests in the south Pacific touched off protests around the world. Protesters have mainly confined themselves to peaceful demonstrations and boycotts of French

Strikers take the Mickey out of Disney

MARY DEJEVSKY

vs US

LSSies

There is discord in the Magic Kingdom. Walt Disney's en-chanted land, which has already had more than its fair share of misfortune since it was transplanted to Europe, has hit a new problem: labour

Visitors to what used to be Euro Disney, which now calls itself Disneyland Paris, were offered an extra unscheduled spectacle on New Year's Eve, when a group of discontented workers tried to go on strike and picketed the main entrance. Against the surreal backdrop of coloured balloons, Mickey Mouse paraphernalia and security staff wielding camcorders, scuffles ensued in which 14 people were injured. Now 18 Disney employees, including 10 trade union officials, face dis-

Details of what happened are hard to extrapolate from sharply conflicting accounts.

A spokesman for Disney said that "no more than 40 to 50 people" turned up to demonstrate. protesting "with not very coherent demands" about a host of things from the Juppé plan, messages.

the government's contentious welfare reform, to pay. "We had some people," the spokesman said reprovingly, "who chose violence to express their demands...We are always open to dialogue between employees and management...but we had people who tried to force their way into the park and this is un-

But it is far from clear who is the Big Bad Wolf. The main union involved, the CGT - one of the unions at the forefront of last month's national strike movement - has a rather different version. The secretary of the Marne-la-Vallee branch, Anne-Marie Njo, said that "around 200 people" had turned up to protest about the imposition from 1 January of an "inadequate" pay rise. She said that the workers concerned had actually declared a day's strike, but that the management had changed the rotas to give all those suspected of involve-

ment a compulsory day off.

Instead of striking, she said,
the workers had to demonstrate - but when they tried to communicate with their colleagues on duty, they were prevented from entering or passing

France's leading screen idol tops honours list



Paris (AP) - The actors Gérard Depardieu (pictured above in a scene from Cyrano de Bergerac) and Jean Marais and the director Marcel Carne have been promoted to the French Legion of Honour.

week were the writer Henri Troyat, the jazz pianist Jacques Dieval and the European Commission member Yves-Thibault de Silguy.
Carne, 89, director of Les Enfants du

Paradis, Hotel du Nord and other clas-Also honoured in lists published this sics, was promoted to Grand Officer, the

Legion's highest rank. Marais, a longtime theatre and movie actor, was promoted to the rank of Commander of the Legion of Honour, Depardieu, one of France's best-known actors who starred in Cyrano de Bergerac and Green Card, was promoted to the rank of Chevalier.

Mr de Silguy is in charge of economics for the Commission, the executive branch of the European Union. As such, he will play an important role in the implementation of a single European currency. The Legion was created by Napoleon in 1802.

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The "genius" of Charlie Chaplin is as elusive today as it was assured throughout his long career. Even those most confident of his stature have difficulty with his love life. His very fame was 29 when in 1918 he married the 16-year-old Mildred Harris -who neglected to tell him that Louis B. Mayer had already signed her to contract with billing as Mrs Charles Chaplin. Lita Grey was his second wife collapsed on the set when two and the marriage ended equally messily. It also established him in the public eye as a man who preferred young girls.

A long liaison later with Paulette Goddard helped to rehabilitate him, but a paternity suit after their separation resurrected the long-dead headlines from his two divorces. He won, but his wedding soon af-ter to the 18-year-old Oona O'Neill didn't help his image, especially as her father (the playwright Eugene) publicly and very loudly disapproved. The marriage endured and produced a brood of children, though her life ended in an

alcoholic haze. Chaplin does not mention Lita Grey in his My Autobiog-raphy (1964), perhaps because the memories were too painful. Lillita McMurray was seven when in 1915 a chance visit took Chaplin to Kitty's Come-On Inn where her mother, Nana, was a waitress (she was of Mexican descent; the father was Irish-American). After his divorce from Harris he continued to see Lillita and gave her walk-ons in two of his films. as an angel in The Kid (1921) and as a maid people do it" when she objecting The Idle Class (also 1921). His ed to the "abnormal, against na-

leading lady in both was Edna Purviance, and when he failed to make her a star in her own right in A Woman of Paris (1923) it was Mrs McMurray's daughter who took over her was a factor in his undoing. He dressing-room - her Christian name shortened from Lillita to Lita and the "Grey" derived from a cat which Chaplin had

She was to co-star with him

given her.

in The Gold Rush (1924), but months pregnant. As Georgia Hale replaced her in the role, there stepped forth a lawyer uncle, Edwin McMurray, to point out that Lita's age could bring charges of statutory rape. Their marriage took place on 24 November 1924 - and not secretly, as Chaplin had hoped. Among the many reporters covering the story was one who claimed to have heard him say, Well, boys, this is better than the penitentiary but it won't

Nor did it, despite producing two sons (Charles Junior, who died of alcoholism, and Sydney, who became an actor). After Chaplin had complained about the endless parties he found going on in his house when he returned from work, Lita moved out. When she filed for divorce, in January 1928, Uncle Edwin had Chaplin's assets seized, demanding \$1m (over £206,000 by the exchange rates of the day) in settlement; the lengthy statement issued - or at least, which found its way to the tabloids - asserted, inter alia, that Chaplin read banned books to his bride and claimed "all

ture, perverted, degenerate and indecent act" (fellatio).

Chaplin's own statement admitted that he had behaved "like many other foolish men" but that he had married partly because he believed himself incapable of fatherhood; and he concluded, if rather limply, that "her mother deliberately and continuously put Lita in my

The controversy split America. As Chaplin gained support, Grey threatened to name five actresses who had enjoyed "intimacy" with him during the marriage. Five careers - and conceivably five studios - were threatened with ruin. Negotiations resulted in a cash settlement of \$625,000 for Lita, whose accusations were reduced to a single one of cruelty. A grateful industry honoured Chaplin's "versatility and genius" with a special Academy Award for making The Circus in the first-ever Oscar ceremony,

Grey married three more times, and although a report in 1970 called her "independently wealthy" it said that she was working as a clerk in a department store because she wanted to. She spent her last contented, peaceful years in the Motion Picture County Home, dis-missing the scandals of 70 years ago as due to Chaplin's "insecurities" and "his notoriously deprived background".

David Shipman

Lillita McMurray (Lita Grey), actress: born Los Angeles 15 April 1908; four times married; died Woodland Hills, California 29



Grey and Chaplin; she settled for \$625,000 on their divorce in 1928

Photograph: Hulton Deutsch

Hamish Imlach

it was somehow appropriate that Hamish Imlach, the gargantuan Scottish folk singer, should have died quietly in the early hours of Hogmanay morning, for his huge appetite for life found its annual high-point at New Year, whether he was at home in the Glasgow suburb of Motherwell or out on the road in Germany or Denmark, the contractual bottle of whisky on the table before him.

But his 20-stone girth and Rabelaisian sense of humour belied the seriousness of his art, which found its earliest expression in the Holy Loch antinuclear protests of the early 1960s, when with Josh Macrae, Jackie O'Connor, Nigel Denver and Morris Blythman (better known under his *nom de plume* of Thurso Berwick) he created a body of song that is still to be heard on demonstrations, 30

years after. He was also one of the first to bring to public notice the political songs of Hamish Henderson, the Scots poet whose "Freedom Come-all-ye" has

tional anthem for Scotland (the other being, of course, the Corries' "Flower of Scotland").

It was this political commitment, no doubt, which led to his being proscribed by the Freedom Association, with the result that he found himself barred from many of the engagements where his hail-fellow-well-met manner might have suited corporate audiences out for a good

He was also mentor for many who were to come after, notably Billy Connolly, who borrowed his way with a good story, and John Martyn, who learnt the first rudiments of his now prodigious guitar technique at Imlach's ample knee. He was also invited at one time to join the Dubliners, and was a close friend of Christy Moore, doyen of Ireland's contemporary traditionalists.

Born in Calcutta, in 1940, of Scots parents, he came back to Glasgow with them as a young boy and went to the same school as Ray and Archie Fisher, who introduced him to the become virtually a second na- joys of folk music. His enormous

appetite for music and the good things of life made him a leading member of that select band who could combine entertainment with the sort of profound seriousness which makes a good Shakespearian Falstaff. Even when parodying an American Christmas carol, as in his "Cod Liver Oil and the Orange Juice", something of the original still shone through, though the belly laughs were more

obvious on the surface. It was never to be expected that such a character could have a long life, and indeed just 20 years ago it was declared that he was medically dead, all body functions having totally failed. He gagged that he made more money from the subsequent benefit concerts than he ever took on his own account. This sold him somewhat short, however, for he was one of the few folk singers who could guarantee to fill a cinema or concert hall in any part of the British Isles, though, like many of his peers, he found more demand for his services on the Continent in recent years.

Very much a live performer. he nevertheless appeared on more than three dozen albums, including compilations, and well over a dozen under his own name. He also produced eight in Germany, and was recently featured on a video of his live

Despite having suffered from bronchial and asthmatic problems for years, he continued working in the pre-Christmas period, relying on cold cures and painkillers to conquer the influenza symptoms that should have had him resting in bed. He dozed off about 45 minutes into New Year's morning, and never woke up. It was how he would have chosen to go: "When I die I want everything his 1992 autobiography: Cod Liver Oil and the Orange Juice - Reminiscences of a Fat Folk

Hamish Imlach, folk singer: born Calcutta 10 February 1940; married (four children); died Motherwell 1 January 1996.



Photograph: Collections / Brian Shuel

Geoffrey Pinnington

Geoffrey Pinnington looked a hearyweight and his journalism matched his physique. He had a bull-like determination and was almost impossible to deter when he had decided on a course of action. This did not endear him to all his colleagues. but his Fleet Street career progressed because his judgements usually proved to be correct.

His RAF service was typical of his life. Naturally he flew in bombers. He decided early on that the Wellington was his sort of aircraft. Like him, Wellingtons could absorb a lot of punishment and still reach their target, and he made it his business to operate in them long after more glamorous bombers had been developed. He became one of the most experienced navigators in the RAF, serving in Bomber Command and the Middle East. He ended as a Squadron Leader after serving from 1940 right through to the end of the war.
Pinnington was essentially a

Londoner, devoted to its theatres and its restaurants, and spending all his working life in the capital and suburbs apart from one brief sortie to Manchester. He was educated largely at Harrow County School and later studied at London University. He began in journalism as a reporter on the Middlesex Independent before moving to local papers in west London. where he became editor of the Kensington Post.

He entered national jour-nalism through the old Daily Herald. He was swiftly moved to the news desk when his talents were recognised and promoted even more swiftly to become northern editor. Brought back to London in 1958 as deputy editor, he might well have become one of the series of Herald ed-itors appointed by the fading paper in the perpetual search for a winning formula. But an apparent lurch towards unilater-alism by the Herald when he was temporarily in charge of the paper proved too much for its political masters at the TUC. It was made clear to him that he would never edit the paper and he made clear that he did not accept the decision. He left to

join the Daily Mirror.

It was at the Mirror that his reputation really grew. The paper was then at its peak, the most popular daily in Britain, with a circulation approaching 5 million, and in 1961 he became its night editor. The night editorship of any popular paper is always a key post but Pinnington made it a vital one. He dominated the section known as the back bench, where a paper's make-up and content is largely determined, and he continued to do this after he had been promoted to assistant editor. He wielded more power than many editors. He attracted great loyalty from his production colleagues as well as admiration from many in other areas of the

paper, but he also created critics despite his continual success. In a repetition of what had

happened at the Herald, it became obvious that he would never become editor of the Mirror, and when a vacancy occurred at its companion paper, the Sunday People, he filled it. For the new 10 years, from 1972, he edited the Prople with enthusiasm and confidence.

It was a difficult task because he had to compete not only with Rupert Murdoch's News of the World but also with the Sunday Mirror which, like the People, was owned by what was then the International Publishing Corporation. Pinnington felt, rightly or wrongly, that IPC's heart was really with the Sunday Mirror, and that when it was a ques-tion of allocating resources his paper took second place. Nev-ertheless, he was delighted to have an editorship of his own at last, even though it was with a paper which was down-market from his own taste. When he retired in 1982 he did so with a sense of fulfilment.

He was a member of the



Press Council from 1982 to 1986, continuing rather unusually after his retirement from active journalism. He was vicechairman from 1983 to 1986.

Pinnington was a man of considerable humour and as adept at assessing the worth of a story as he was at devising the make-up of a front page. He would have made his mark on

any paper. In any list of interests Pinnington always placed his family first. This was not a gesture. His family - he was married with two daughters - was the centre of his life, though nobody seeing him in operation on a major news night would have guessed this. Unlike many Fleet Street marriages his was outstandingly successful. His devotion to his wife Beryl was as palpable as when they first met

Geoffrey Charles Pinnington, journalist; born 21 March 1919; Deputy Editor, Daily Herald 1958-61; Deputy Editor, Daily Mirror 1968-72; Editor, Sunday People 1972-82; married 1941 Beryl Clark (two daughters); died 24 December 1995.

Margaret Field-Hyde

The soprano Margaret Field-Hyde was one of the great Purcell singers of her day. That her death at the age of 90 should fall in the Purcell tercentenary year is a fitting coincidence. She was an all-round accomplished musician and actress.

Born in Cambridge, she was the daughter of F.C. Field-Hyde, a renowned teacher of music, from whom she received her first lessons on the violin and piano at the age of six and later her training as a singer. For

many years she played violin in the orchestra of the Cambridge University Musical Association, and in 1928 she made her singing début in a Cums production of Purcell's King Arthur, this established her as an interpreter of Purcell.

She now concentrated on her singing and acting career and in 1935 played Ariel in The Tempest at Stratford-upon-Avon. The following year she created the part of Angelica in Ralph Vaughan Williams's extravaganza The Poisoned Kiss, and was engaged by John Christie for the 1937 Glyndebourne season - as Barbarina in The Marriage of Figaro and Papagena to the Papageno of Roy Henderson. She sang in the first broadcast of Monteverdi's Vespro della Beata Vergine in 1947 and Poppea in a concert performance of L'Incoronazione di Poppea in 1948.

In 1951 she formed the Golden Age Singers to perform English music during the 1952

(Charles Sherwood Stratton), dwarf.

Festival of Britain, and these five singers gained a reputation at home and abroad specialising in the madrigals of John Dowland, Thomas Weelkes and other British composers, as well as of the Italians Marenzio and Monteverdi. They made a number of successful recordings.

Field-Hyde was a fine interpreter of 19th- and 20th-century music; she gave the first performance of Elisabeth Lutyens' O saisons, O châteaux! (1947) and took part in the first English performance of Malipiero's Mondi Celesti (1955). She also specialised in French song, having completed her singing studies in Paris with the French tenor and musicologist Yves Tinayre.

As a teacher, Field-Hyde was exceptional in that she was adept at finding a remedy for bad habits formed so often by incorrect teaching. Voice production, she said, was probably the most vulnerable musical study because so few teachers knew how to train the individual voice to work within its own limitations. Her methods were based on assessing the natural potential of each student and her results were often

astounding. Her own voice was sweet, pure and rich at same time, while every syllable could be heard without any sacrifice to the music itself. Her intelligent approach made her performances as a soloist and in her group outstanding. As a

woman, she was diminutive, physically attractive and pos-sessed of a delightful bubbly sense of humour. She married in 1947, Eric

Sharples, News Editor of the Arabic Programme in the BBC World Service; he died in 1987.

Margaret Campbell

Margaret Field-Hyde, singer and teacher: born Cambridge 4 May 1905; married 1947 Eric Sharples (died 1987); died Goring-on-Thames 17 December 1995.

Admiral Arleigh Burke, died Washington 1 January, aged 94. During the Second World War commanded the "Little Beavers" destroyer squadron in the Pacific whose high-speed dashes earned him the nickname "31 Knot Burke". From 1955, President Eisenhower's naval operations chief for three two-year terms. Retired in

1961. Terry O'Leary, charity worker. died Leeds 31 December, aged 48. Chief executive of the British Epilepsy Association. where he had worked since 1976; set up local voluntary "Action for Epilepsy" groups.

Births. **Marriages** & Deaths

BIRTHS

BENTLEY: On 2 January at the Lindo Wing, St Mary's Paddington, to Mark and Maria (née Cavanagh), a daugh-ter, Miranda.

ter, Miranda.

COULSHED: Nicholas Anthony, a son for the lucky couple Susan and David Coulshed, was born at 1601 hrs on 20 December 1995. Grandson for Norman and Olive Coulshed, Liverpool, England, and for Malcolm and Marjorie Nicklim, Sydney, Australia.

DEATHS

RHYMES: On New Year's Day, peace-fully at St Wilfrid's Hospice, Chich-ester. the Rev Canon Douglas Rhymes aged 81 years. Funeral Ser-Names aget of years running several Bongrow Priory, nr Chichester, on Thursday 11 January 1996 at 12 noon. No flowers please, Donations for St Wilfrid's Hospice may be sent to Kerin Holland Funeral Service, 246 Chichester Road, Bognor Regis PO21
SBA. Telephone 01243 888630. A
memorial service at Southwark
Cathedral will be held at a later date.

For Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS please telephone 0171-293 2011 or fax 0171-293 2010.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Prisecess Royal is the principal guest speak-er on the first mortung of the 50th Oxford Farm-ing Conference to be held at the Oxford University Examination Schools.

Changing of the Guard
The Household Cavalry Mounted Requested to Secret Side Goard at Borse G.
Ham; is Bettalion Scots Guards must Octom's Grand, at Berkingham Palace, [1].

Birthdays

Miss Grace Bumbry, opera and con-cert singer, 59; Miss Dyan Cannon, curess, 57; Mr Alexander Chancellor, journalist, founding editor of the Independent Magazine, 56; Capt Sir Ivar Colquhoun of Luss Bt, Chief of the Clan Colquhoun, 80; Miss Rosalie Crutchley, actress, 74; Mr Iain Cuthbertson, actor, 66; Mr Alan Dyer, Chief Constable, Bedfordshire, 62; Professor Keith Hancock, economist, 61; Sir Havelock Hudson, former chairman of Lloyd's, 77; Lt-Cdr Sir Ian Clark Hutchison, a member of the Queen's Body Guard for Scotland, 93; Professor Brian Joseph-son, physicist, 56; Air Vice-Marshal Richard Kyle, 53; Professor Lance Lanyon, Principal, Royal Veterinary College, 52; Mr John McLaughlin, blues and jazz guitarist, 53; Miss Margaret Marshall, concert and opera singer, 47; Mr Mick Mills, foot-baller, 47; Mr Floyd Patterson, boxing champion, 61; Mr Nicholas Payne, Director, Royal Opera, Covent Garden, 51; Mr Timothy Rix, publisher, 62; Miss Barbara Rush, actress, 66; Sir Alan Thomas, chairman, G.M. Firth (Holdings) plc, 53; Mrs Audrey Wise MR, 61; Miss Jane Wyman, actress, 82.

Anniversaries

Births: James Ussher, Archbishop of Armagh and chronologist, 1581; Sir William Hillary, founder of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, 1771; Jakob Ludwig Karl Grimm, philologist and folklorist, 1785; Henry George Bohn, publisher and book-seller, 1796; Louis Braille, deviser of a blind alphabet, 1809; Sir Isaac Pitman, inventor of Pitman's short-hand, 1813; Myles Birket Foster, painter, 1825; General Tom Thumb

1838; Alfred Edgar Coppard, poet and short-story writer, 1878; Augustus Edwin John, painter, 1878. Deaths: Henri Bergson, philoso-pher, 1941; Ralph Vaughan Williams, composer, 1958; Albert Camus, nov-elist and playwright, killed 1960; Thomas Steams Eliot, poet and crit-ic 1965; Deard Miller Company

ic, 1965; Donald Malcoim Campbell, speedster, killed 1967; Joy-Friederike Victoria Adamson, naturalist and writer, 1980; Lt-Gen Sir Brian Gwynne Horrocks, soldier and his-torian, 1985; Christopher William Bradshaw Isherwood, novelist and playwright, 1986. On this day: Columbus sailed from America back to Spain in the *Nina*, 1493; Donizetti's opera Don Pasquale was first per-formed, Paris 1843; all members of the crew of the Rhyl lifeboat were lost in attempting to save the schooner Temperance, 1847; the Fabian Society was founded, 1884; the first ap-pendicitis operation was performed, 1885; the Bolsheviks captured Riga, 1919; the National Congress in India was declared illegal, and Gandhi was arrested, 1932; the first chart of pop music was published in the US by the Billboard, 1936; Burma became an independent republic, 1948; a strike of barbers' assistants in Copen-hagen ended after 33 years, 1961; Pope Paul VI began a tour of the Holy Land, 1964; Rose Heilbron became the first woman to sit as a judge at the Old Bailey, London, 1972. To-

Lectures National Gallery: David Saunders, "The National Gallery During World

day is the Feast Day of St Elizabeth

Bayley Seton, St Gregory of Langres, St Pharaildis, St Rigobert of Rheims and St Roger of Ellant.

War II (i): hidden in caves and cellars", 1pm.
British Museum: Anne Pearson.

The Metropolitan Museum: man-National Portrait Gallery: Basil Morgan, "Cardinal Wolsey and the young Henry VIII", 1.10pm.

Council of Christians and Jews

The 1995 Sir Sigmund Sternberg Council of Christians and Jews Award was presented yesterday evening at Lambeth Palace, London SE1, to the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev George Carey. The Right Rev Richard Harries. Bishop of Oxford, presented the award and Rabbi Hugo Gryn also

Mr John Christopher Cadbury, of Wyre Piddle, Worcestershire, the wildlife conservationist, President of the Royal Society for Nature Conservation 1962-88, left estate valued at £636,653 net.

Major Andrew Graham Burnaby-Atkins, of Oakham, Leicestershire, director of the Burghley Horse Tri-als 1977-79 and ADC to Field Marshal Montgomery when Chief of the Imperial General Staff, left estate valued at £1,047,638 net. Professor John David Gillett, of Bourne End, Buckinghamshire, the entomologist and former Pro-Vice-

Chancellor of Brunel University, left estate valued at £384,472 net. dismissed. Mr Charles Hugh Shirley, of Andover, Hampshire, the children's Dapline Loebl (Anthony Gold Ler-

Bank must pay damages for 'bouncing' cheque

Society; Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Waite and Sir John May): 30 November 1995

A person whose cheque was wrongly "bounced" by his bank was entitled to claim substantial damages for loss of business reputation without first having to prove actual damage, whether or not he was, or was known by the bank to be, a trader.

The Court of Appeal affirmed the assessment by Master Tennant, on 16 February 1994, of the damages payable by the defendant, Woolwich Building Society, in respect of its admitted liability for wrongful dishonour of a cheque drawn by the plaintiff, Udele Edirin Kpoharor.

The master awarded the plaintiff £5,550 with interest as general damages for injury to his credit. Both the plaintiff's appeal, against the master's refusal to award him a much greater sum in special damages for resulting loss of profit, and the defendant's cross-appeal, against the award of anything other than nominal damages for loss of credit, were

man & Muirhead) for the plaintiff:

LAW REPORT

4 January 1996

Katherine McQuail (Woolwich Building Society) for the defendant. shipped, the loss due to selling the goods elsewhere at a loss, and various other losses of Lord Justice Evans said the

plaintiff was a Nigerian who had described himself as profit. The defendant did not disa self-employed "exporter/ importer" when opening his pute the claim for loss of credit or business reputation, but current account. On 9 Sepsaid the amount should be nominal unless special facts were proved which had been tember 1991 he drew a cheque for £4,550 in favour of Phils (Wholesale) Ltd. The current made known to them when the balance was then about £4.800. contract was made. The plaintiff relied on a line of author-The cheque was presented for payment on 10 September at ity which held that actual damage need not be alleged or the payee's bankers with a request for special clearance. proved by "a trader". The de-The defendant refused payfendant said it was unaware of ment on the ground "Cheque reported lost". The defendant this, and that for this reason alone the rule relied upon did acknowledged the error later not apply. that day and gave the plaintiff The rule as stated in Rolin v a corporate cheque, which he Steward (1854) 14 CB 595 at

607 made it necessary to contook next morning to the payee, who then released a consider in every case whether or signment of cosmetic goods not the plaintiff was a trader. which the plaintiff required But it was clear that history had for shipment to Nigeria. changed the social factors The plaintiff claimed general which moulded the rule in the damages for loss of business 19th century. It was not only reputation and credit. He also tradesmen of whom it could be claimed special damages said that the refusal to meet his amounting to £57,185 in respect cheque was "so obviously inof a claim against him by the jurious to his credit" that he Nigerian company to whom the should "recover, without alle-

gation of special damage, reasonable compensation for the injury done to his credit" (see Wilson: United Counties Bank Ltd [1920] AC 102, per Lord Birkenhead LC). The credit rating of individgoods were to have been

uals was as important for their personal transactions, including mortgages and hire purchase as well as banking facilities, as it was for those who were engaged in trade, and it was notorious that central registers were now kept.

What was in effect a presumption of some damage now arose in every case; and in his Lordship's judgment the authorities did not, as a matter of law, prevent such a presumption of fact extending beyond the category of trader. As for the special damages

claim, the damages arising from the loss or late performance of his contract to sell and deliver the goods to Nigeria could not reasonably be supposed to have been in the contemplation of both parties when the contract was made, and such damages were accordingly too remote to be claimed under this head.

Lord Justice Waite and Sir John May agreed.

Paul Magrath, Barrister

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The abuse heaped on Emma Nicholson has been extreme, not least because she is a woman, says Polly Toynbee

Why do they hate her so much?

cornucopia of abuse has Agreeted Emma Nicholson's defection. Those who only read the polite press may have missed the full flavour of it. Still it continues, six days after her departure, with a bold Sun headline yesterday reading "Iwo-Paced Emma". The barrage has been extraordinary and disproportionate.

Alan Howarth received a pretty steaming mound of invective, accusing him of careerism, ambition, ratting, inconsistency and more. They tried to dig dirt with stories of parliamentary foreign trips with a baroness on the same committee. Nothing outrages more than betrayal schism and defection: no holds are barred, no filth too dirty, no abuse too strong. Floor-crossers down the years, from Reg Prentice to the 30 SDP breakaways (including that remarkable double-bouncer, John Horam), all bear the scars of a flight of verbal knives hurled into their fleeing backs.

And yet no invective has sunk quite so low as that attracted by the defection of the relatively humble backbencher, Ms Nicholson. Howarth's critics implied he was, or had been, a man of substance and stature - no suggestion that he was stupid or worthless. But when Portillo called Emma Nicholson "silly", that summed up the whole sexist tone of her treatment. (His departmental colleague Nicholas Soames's intemperate assault on Princess Diana was of the same ilk.) Women get it in the neck in the Tory party, Mrs Thatcher notwithstanding.

Teresa Gorman has no reason to like Emma Nicholson. Gorman is one of those xenophobic Euro rebels Nicholson accuses of having dragged the party to the extreme right. Yet in a backhanded way, Gorman confirms the sexist treatment she thinks Nicholson has received at the hands of the party they plainly both deplore.

She is a patrician, not really a politician." Gorman says. "However thick or daft they are, patrician Tories always get jobs in government - but not if you are a woman." She lists Lennox Boyd, Hogg, Sackville, Archie Hamilton, Waldegrave, Ancram, Soames and Maude as just a few examples of rose without question or, she implies, much merit. "They are all part of the ruling élite. It's all connections and who you are - but not if you are a woman, and that rankled with Emma because she is one of them."

Deep-dyed dislike of women in their ranks permeates the parliamentary party, and it isn't just feminist Teresa Gorman who says so. There is a bountiful supply of very able women who have tried without success to break in. Nicholson was a fighter for more women within the party and she

feersturen eil illir ob et guidente fich THE DESIGNATION COME SEE SEE DESIGNATION OF THE PROPERTY SEELS OF an amalousi line and try to recognize the lives and these to have her held tone interly Total and the second of the se

Anonymous female in the second der teenage grasi political reality

"In fact I fired her because her unrelenting demands for new curtains, furniture and staff were costing more than she was worth"

est Country Tory MP and former ally, the Sun, 3,1.96 "Emma Nicholson must have fancied the sweets of office. especially that warm feeling of being loved and important, or she never would have become a politician in the first place"

The poor woman has no idea what she tie promotion of . Daily Espress 411 95 with rivals was behind

Montage: Mark Hayman

founded the successful High Fliers recruitment initiative. That always marked her out for special mockery among her male parliathe scions of Tory dynasties who mentary colleagues, for the one thing worse than a woman MP is a feminist woman MP.

> 1 has been heaped on Emma Nicholson is worth detailing. John Carlisle MP described her as "a woman who has prostituted herself". Another MP said: "She's a frightful bitch". One MP mused, "Is it something to do with the menopause?" while Exeter's prospective candidate called her The Wicked Witch of the West". Woodrow Wyatt (The Voice of Reason) called her 'vain and silly'.

Tebbit, writing in the Sun. responded tartly to her accusation that eight years ago - when she and he was chairman - he had The litany of sexist abuse that women into the party. He set about her like a pack of hunretorted: "In fact I fired her because her unrelenting demands for more office space, new curtains, furniture and staff were costing more than she was worth... No Miss Nicholson, I don't see you as a woman of political principle. I see you as a hanger-on to the coat-tails of anyone who might advance your

ambition." Lord McAlpine, former party

gry wolves, and had it not been for the personal intervention of Margaret Thatcher, who took the view that the whole matter was a load of nonsense, Miss Nicholson's political career would have come to an abrupt halt."

The Daily Mail duly dispatched its terriers, who came up with an "exclusive" they could have found affiliation to them is more visin the cuttings. Nicholson started ceral than rational. Clan loyalty a relationship with her present and uncomprehending fear of all unwomanly and unnatural.

dirt when he recalled scandal from she was a vice chairman of the floor keeps most of them of tough stuff, standing her her vice chairman days: "Emma party and he was still married to Nicholson put a lot of noses out of his former wife, Janice. In these was a vice chairman of the party joint and it was not long before her days when divorce is common, committee discovered that she almost everyone has some bring more black and Asian with a married man. Those women whose old wounds can be gouged do this. Women are the little open again to serve a purpose, so humiliation betraval.

> desertion. There is no such thing as a defection must rank as one of the most bizarrely rancorous. Political parties are largely tribal, so

Past-master of poison Lord treasurer, dredged up the worst husband, Sir Michael Caine, when the utterly alien terrain across fixed immutably in their own

But underneath there rankles Janice Caine was duly prodded taries and Girl Fridays of the into reliving the details of her party, running the back rooms and the constituencies, loval as labradors, without whose devoted service the men of the party could clean break in politics, but this not function. Gillian Shephard and Virginia Bottomley are unheeded tokens. patronised, belittled and ignored. "Witch", "bitch", "vain" and "silly" she may be, but what Emma did was above

ground, rebutting each sally. To each new sneer she has retaliated with more devastating stories the real worm in the Tory breast - from within the bowels of the rebuked her for her attempts to was thought to be having an affair aggrieved former spouse or lover she is a woman. Women just don't party: once she was hit in the pit of the stomach by an MP outraged at her vote in support of the Nolan anti-sleaze measures. With chapter and verse she has denounced them all roundly as racist, chauvinist, Little Englanders, fudging their principles, and pandering to hard-faced populism. In the insult stakes, she has scarcely drawn breath, scooping up the mud and hurling it back again with far more deadly accuracy than any of the old boys lined up on the other side.

Yet she has proved to be made



Tories take to the pistes

Where do leading Conservative MPs spend their angst-ridden New Year break worrying about the Government's water-thin majority? The answer is on the ski slopes at the plush Swiss resort of Davos.

Winston Churchill MP has led a group of colleagues including the former Cabinet minister Tom King, the whip Richard Ottaway and PPS Alan Duncan on a fact-finding mission to the slopes. They are guests of the Anglo Swiss par-



Winston: no hiding place

liamentary group and this important celebration of European harmony, or freebie as it is called in skiing parlance, climaxes next Monday with a statom race between British

and Swiss MPs. This is cutting things a bit fine as all these MPs will be expected back on Tuesday to vote in the Northern Ireland Emergency Provisions Bill. John Major would be less than pleased if a snowstorm kept his

entire majority in Switzerland. Normally the MPs could have expected to take their sporting pleasures undisturbed. But I have news for them. The Prince of Wales, I understand, plans to move from Klosters to Davos on Monday and may even compete in the race himself. That should guarantee a few dozen photographers to ensure that the Anglo-Swiss parliamentary group are pub-licly accountable.

Gunned down

Concerns for the gravitas of the Oxford Union, finelled by recent orators of note such as Kermit the Frog, will be allayed by news of a forthcoming debate. This House believes that a civilised society cannot permit hunting and shooting is surely a suitable matter to occupy great minds. But what authority has the union enlisted to speak for the

None other than James Barrington, ex-director of the League Against Cruel Sports, who was forced last month to quit the post - and the movement - after appearing, in an interview in the Field magazine, to be rather in league with cruel sports. If hunters stopped using terriers, he had offered helpfully, their sport might enjoy "s new lease of life". Colleagues found such generosity of spirit inexplicable, and Mr Barrington's professional battle against crael sports was brought to an

abrupt end. News of his forthcoming appearance at the Oxford Union has raised more than the odd eyebrow at his ersiwhile office. "His public speaking skills have always been fine," I am told gradeingly, "it's his beliefs we are not too sure about. I'm not even sure he's speaking on the right side maybe he's muddled it up."

Might some over-zealous hunt saboteurs descend on the chamber to express their feelings in their inimicable fashion? The President of the Union, Jonathon Wolf, hopes not. "The whole point of a debate," he explains, "is to put forward your point in a sensible manner. And besides, I've never shot anything - I'm a Londoner."



Liz: all washed up

Sticky mess

The Cirque du Soleil, the radical French Canadian circus troupe, which starts a season at the Royal Albert Hall on Friday, has a tradition of entertaining showbiz royalty at its after-show parties and keeping mementoes of their

Tragedy struck, I hear, in its recent American show, when the cirque entertained its favourite celeb, Elizabeth Tayfor. It decided to keep her linstick-stained wine glass, frame it, and carry it for ever on its travels. While the troupe's two leaders argued over who

should be entrusted with the memento, a Mexican dishwasher took it and washed it up.

Peer review Just as the dust was settling

on the Telegraph newspaper stable's recent round of musical chairs, another departure was announced vesterday. Not, this time, another editor, shuffling for safety, but the grand old man of the Telegraph himself, Lord Hartwell, one-time owner and editor-in-chief.

The 84-year-old peer's Berry family trust sold their last shares in the company recently. But Lord Hartwell's retirement from the board does not quite signal the end of the Berrys at Berry, remains at the coalface - as the paper's industrial reporter.

Olivier's final act?

Now we know what the greatest actor of the century did when he was not treading the boards. He hoarded, dear boy, he

Laurence Olivier is to be the subject of a new and allegedly definitive biography by the former theatre critic and National Theatre literary consultant Derek Granger, who has been promised co-operation by Sir Laurence's widow, Joan Plowright, and the family of his second wife. Vivien

Granger was not surprised that Olivier had kept key accessories to his acting career - the recipe for his all-over body make-up for Othello, for example. But other keepsakes have been harder to explain.

"Olivier was a man who kept everything," says Granger, "Old driving Granger. licences, steamboat tickets,



Mystery, dear boy ...

veterinary prescriptions for ailing kittens, seed catalogues and the pedigrees of his dairy herd at Notley Abbey." While meaningless material has been carefully stored, meaningful material has been uncovered in the unlikeliest places. The last letters written to a 12year-old Olivier by his mother just before she died, and a batch of censored wartime letters from Vivien Leigh, have been found in a bramblegrown, mouse-infested farmyard barn. There must, as actors say, have been method in it somewhere.

Eagle Eye

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Admissions of failure

revolutionary change in the state education system for decades. The Government is considering allowing state schools more control over their own admissions procedures. The most likely option is enabling schools to select their pupils on the basis of interviews with the children and their parents.

Advocates of such a change argue that schools should be allowed to choose pupils from supportive families that will instil discipline and academic motivation into their children and reflect the values of the school.

But do we really want to go down this road? Imagine the family turning up for their classroom grilling. Articulate, welleducated professional parents will find it easy to convey the impression of a motivated family, which values academic standards - and their charming children will be quickly accepted. But the child whose parents have no qualifications, little respect for academic achievement, and a deep suspicion of schools and teachers is likely to be at a considerable disadvantage, no matter how bright he or she is.

There is a stronger case for interviewing prospective pupils: at least, unlike their parents, they will actually attend the school. But the downside cannot be ignored. The children who are already confident and socially at ease will have a great advantage over the sby, the retiring. the awkward or the socially inhibited child, no matter what their academic

There is one possible advantage in

Selection in schools appears to be on the way back. This would be the most admissions procedures. Each school admissions procedures. Each school could build up its own distinctive virtues, whether it be academic achievement, religious commitment or excellence in music or art. But the benefits that might accrue from such a wide range of choices for parents are outweighed by the dangers inherent in the kind of social selection that is being canvassed.

Had the Government suggested selection on the basis of ability, it might have a stronger case. At least the 11-plus purported to offer an objective way to discriminate between pupils by presenting everyone with the same independent test. And it was a considerably more meritocratic way of determining access to the best schools than the current system, where your chance of a good education depends on the area you live in or your parents' ability to pay school fees.

The problem with the 11-plus, lest we forget, is that it produced a form of academic apartheid. At the age of 11, all too many pupils were branded for life. Late developers suffered from being stuck in the wrong school. And the less able

received low-quality education. The current system of determining who goes to which school is not ideal. But the Government's proposals are not going to improve the situation. Most parents biggest concern is how to get their child into an over-subscribed popular school and avoid the sink school down the road. Mr Major would do better to focus on expanding good schools and improving bad ones rather than encouraging social

In defence of the plucky citizen

intruder trying to burgle our house or all, can be expected to weigh up precise preak into our police seem unable to control crime, and fear of violence is increasing, acts of individual courage carry particular appeal. They offer hope that good will overcome

But tackling criminals can go wrong. Heroes can end up dead. They can also find themselves in the dock. No one knows yet whether Nick Baungartner, the businessman involved at the weekend in a fatal struggle with a burglar, will be charged over the intruder's death.

Indeed, legal precedent is extremely grey on the question of self-defence and protection of property. The law is plain enough: it allows a citizen to use "reasonable force" against an attacker or burglar. Court interpretations, on the other hand, are unpredictable.

Last year an 82-year-old man had to pay £4,000 compensation after he fired his shotgun at an intruder who was breaking into his allotment shed. In other instances, householders have been acquitted after killing burglars. The most celebrated case in the last century involved a man in his seventies who surprised four burglars and killed three of them with a carving knife. He was awarded a knighthood.

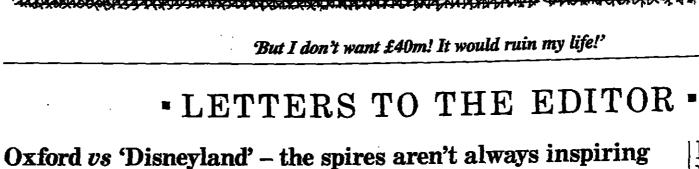
Michael Howard, the Home Secretary. has recently entered the debate. He contends that the police are over-zealous in charging people with offences such as assault when they seek to defend their property with violence. The problem is

E veryone admires the plucky citizen that it is impossible to lay down clear rules as to what a householder should be We all wonder how we would react to the allowed to do to an intruder. No one, after ure lurks in the darkness. As one judge said: "Detached reflection can't be expected in the presence of an uplifted

> But a couple of principles should guide juries. First, people must be able to use potentially lethal violence when they think their lives or those of others are in danger. Second, we should be entitled to defend our goods with physical force. But this dispensation is limited. A person cannot, for example, be permitted to shoot a burglar departing with the video recorder. Life - even that of a burglar is more important than property.

> These ideas currently guide the law and distinguish Britain from the United States, where trespassers enjoy virtually no legal protection. This difference was illustrated when a Japanese tourist was shot dead after ringing a doorbell in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He wanted to ask for directions to a Hallowe'en party. The householder's lawyer said that Americans had the "absolute legal right" to answer everyone who comes to their door with a gun. The man was acquitted of murder.

> In Britain, the law and juries must strike a sensible balance. Citizens defending their property deserve our respect and a supportive legal attitude. That cannot mean anything goes. But there are grounds for believing that the present balance needs shifting a little in the direction of the plucky citizen.



From Dr Tony Morgan, BA Oxon From Dr John Ashworth Sir: The long overdue debate Sir. Niall Ferguson is too learned about what sort of universities we for me to lecture him on need, how many students they dinosaurs, but maybe he can help should have, and how we should me to understand something. fund both universities and stu-My daughter, a student at the country's most successful sixth-form college (50 Oxbridge dents will not be advanced by Niall Ferguson's innumerate nonsense ("Oxford? Sorry Prof. I'm entrants last year) recently

into media studies", 1 January). The UCAS figures, not yet publicly available by the way, cannot show what he claims since there was a change in the application procedure this year. Instead of being invited to choose eight institutions on their application forms, intending students were allowed to choose only six this autumn. A fall in the number of applications of less than 25 per cent, therefore, corresponds to an increase in attractiveness. If applicants have also decreased, then

that 25 per cent is also too low. But, be that as it may, if it turns out that the LSE has a decrease cent, it clearly remains, to use Mr Ferguson's phrase, a "Mecca of studentdom" in the Nineties as it was in the Sixties and, indeed, as it has been since it was founded. Your faithfully, JOHN ASHWORTH

Director London School of Economics London, WC2

From Mr Stephen Plowden

Sir: The prospects for all-party

round-table negotiations in

Northern Ireland do not look

good. The IRA and Sinn Fein

have not demonstrated the com-

mitment to exclusively peaceful

methods stipulated by the Down-

ing Street Declaration. If the

British Government were to set

this condition aside and attempt

to convene talks anyway, the

Unionists would not attend. Even

if all parties could be persuaded

or cajoled into attending, there is

no likelihood of their reaching

None of this means that the

peace process is doomed, only

that the sequence of events envis-

aged has to be reordered. The

encountered a lot of dodos in her young life here. Did she perhaps detect that Niall Ferguson's colleagues are not very interested in teaching

place for formal all-party nego-

tiations is at the end of the

process, not the beginning. The immediate requirement is for

discussions of a different char-

acter: not negotiations, or even

the debate that David Trimble

has suggested, but a genuine

search for a constitutional settle-

ment that would satisfy a major-

ity of people from each of the

place in a number of forums,

organised by peace groups,

churches, trade unions, academic

institutions and others. They

would involve members of polit-

ical parties, who would partici-

pate as individuals, not as spokes-

men, so as to encourage the free

Such discussions could take

two main traditions.

Give Irish citizens their say in talks

attended an Oxford open day for

the first place? Yours faithfully, TONY MORGAN Anglia University Cambridge 2 January Sir: Niall Ferguson's self-con-

undergraduates anyway — and therefore are not really con-

cerned with creating an environ-

ment that would attract them in

prospective applicants. She returned unpersuaded that the From Mr David Marley course she was interested in fessed conservative educational matched up to the interesting yet ideals seem to have led to a lack traditional A-level courses she is of desire to question convenfollowing and, accordingly aptionality in universities: a fault plied elsewhere. She is too polite and educated to say so, but I think she also found the prospect surely unacceptable from academics, especially self-styled superior ones from hallowed of spending three years sur-Oxbridge.

rounded by so many Mad Hat-ters, White Rabbits and Red Government funding for the rapidly increasing higher educa-Queens rather uninviting. Have I got it wrong? It does tion system has been appalling, seem a pity for all our sakes that and this is felt particularly strongly the institution which has been so there is a desperate lack of facilprivileged with resources for so young generation. But then, she has resulted in a frustrated staff and student body forced to get by and her friends have been with poorly stocked libraries and exposed in Cambridge to rather a lot of the same narrow breed increasing staff/student ratios. that Mr Ferguson values, and has These are serious problems worthy of serious consideration and should not be ridiculed by calling new universities "Disneyland"

institutions offering "Mickey

exploration of ideas. They would

also involve people who are not

members, and perhaps not even

supporters of any party. The

much the ordinary citizens of

Northern Ireland have to con-

tribute: their voice should be

Alcoholic accidents

Sir: The news that drink-drivers

have been blamed for 1,000

crashes over the Christmas/New

Year period may not reveal the

full extent of the problem,

because the figure is based only

on the current legal blood alco-

The British Medical Associa-

tion has put forward a strong case

that this legal blood alcohol limit

is dangerously high and should be reduced to 50mg/100ml, because

the risk of becoming involved in

a drinking and driving accident

reassessing the current levels. Labour believes that it is time to

review the drink/drive limits in

view of genuine safety concerns.

MP for Nottingham North

The writer is Shadow Minister

From The Rev Richard Schofield

accepted by the headmaster as a

to be tied up in a carpet.

Yours faithfully.

Inswich, Suffolk

RICHARD SCHOFFELD

Yours sincerely,

GRAHAM ALLEN

London, SWI

2 February

for Transport.

House of Commons

(Lab)

From Mr Graham Allen, MP

Mouse degrees".

heard again.

Yours faithfully,

London, NW1

hol levels.

STEPHEN PLOWDEN

students, with their increasing financial contribution to their education, should demand courses that interest them? Is not media studies a form of textual analysis, like many other traditional degrees? And how much does Mr Ferguson know about the subject anyway? I can only assume very little, by his belief that he would be qualified to teach it by writing a newspaper column. Yours faithfully.

And is it so unreasonable that

DAVID MARLEY Stevenage, Hertfordshire 2 January The writer is a De Montfort University media studies student.

From Mr E. David Le Cren Sir: Does Niall Ferguson's article mean that the traditional university is on the way out? The university, as a community of scholin many new universities, where are devoted primarily to original research and creative intellectual tivity and to teaching students. how to think critically and rigorously, must surely be one of the major achievements of the millennium. Is it now to become another victim of market forces, "Thatcherism" and short-term expediency? Yours faithfully,

E. David Le Cren Appleby, Cumbria

French 'pop', UK nostalgia

From Mr Marc Francis Sir. Bryan Appleyard's article "Blame it all on the Beatles" (2 January) was a classic example of the insular misinterpretation that gives the UK a bad name in the European Union, Mr Appleyard criticises the French government for imposing a quota to ensure that 40 per cent of music radio output is French "pop". But the point he makes about the "draconian and sadistic measure taken by the French government is misguided because the percentage of trashy popular music in France is nowhere near the 100 per cent mark. He has obviously never listened to Francis Cabrei. Rita Mitsouko, Mano Negra. Les Innocents and many others.

This article is a criticism of French cultural politics, and the use of pop music as a vehicle to make the point is opportunistic and inaccurate. that can be made about the Beatles initiating the process of globalisation because of their massive appeal, while failing to secure a patent on the phenomenon, is that Mr Appleyard is mourning the demise of the Empire (a British disease that is widespread and counter-productive).

The Beatles were great because, unlike the Stones, they did not attempt the impossibility of making their band live for ever. Pop music is at its best a denunciation of society's unhealthy restrictions on youth. It is a provocative means of carving out the hypocrisy and showing the

truth to the developing mind. This is difficult to do if you are 40-plus, extremely wealthy and established pop group (the league table published late last year in the Independent and headed by Phil Collins shows all the guilty artists). By the same token, it is difficult to criticise if you are a successful middle-aged writer,

A plague on us

Sir: Helen Wilkinson's perceptive

account of the growing attraction

of the status of victimbood for

men and other groups in society

(2 January) raises wider ques-

tions about contemporary polit-

ical culture. If we are not the vic-

tims of the National Lottery.

then it is only a matter of time

before BSE will strike us down.

abuses. From child to elderly

abuse - we are victims of cir-

cumstances beyond our control.

Naturally, everyone is in need of

The very breadth of this cele-

bration of passivity suggests that

what is at stake is a process that

goes way beyond recent changes

in gender roles. The fear of tack-

ling problems leads society to the

sort of evasions that revel in

victimbood. It is a political cul-

ture that offers helplines, "self-

help" groups and therapy instead

of alternatives. The problem is

not the crisis of masculinity but

a diminished humanity.

Department of Sociology

Yours,

FRANK FUREDI

University of Kent

some form of counselling

Life has become a plague of

From Dr Frank Furedi

Yours faithfully. MARC FRANCIS Belgium

note on the envelope asking the Post Office to deliver it to the correct address, and put it in our One week later, 19 December, we opened another redirected package and, to our amazement. out popped the same Christmas

card, but this time joined by another letter to the same address. This time we added a more cryptic note to the envelope asking the Post Office to deliver it correctly. On 27 December, we received

ever in the mailing system going round and round and round?

2 January

Lottery losers

From Mr Conrad Payne Sir: In order to inject some sanity into the nation's punters "Record jackpot sparks fears of lottery chaos", 2 January), myself should be encouraged to publish all the losing number combinations as well as the winning one. Yours sincerely, CONRAD PAYNE Haddenham, Cambridgeshire

Angus Deayton with moon-dried tomatoes

Well, you have waited long enough for the answers to our grand Christmas Quiz, and here they are today. Hope you all did well!

2. No. Y-e-e-es, maybe Possibly, Lord Copper. 5. The odd man out is Michael Por-

tillo. All the rest are politicians. 6. Old-fashioned instrument used for getting ostrich eggs out of ostriches. 7. a) HG Wells. b) GF Wells. c) FE Wells, d) Tunbridge Wells. 8. Beverley Minster is not, in fact, a

girl's name. It is a new TV programme aimed at bringing emergency help to people like Esther Rantzen 10. They were built from a design

based on Janet Street-Porter's teeth. Clunes. 12. Clones.

Clunies.

Clowns. 15. Old-fashioned instrument designed to get large humbugs and pieces of liquorice out of small boys. 16. A film called Martini on the Bourty. 17. The odd man out is Jeffrey Archer. All the rest are writers. 18. The name given by supermarket workers to objects to which labels will never stick, no matter how adhesive.

19. The meaning of "widget" before it

11



came to mean a device in beer cans. 20. The odd one out is McDonald's. All the rest are restaurants.

21. It is the name given by psychologists to man's mability to agree on which is the last year of the century. 22. The ancient motto of the Rampliffe family. In English it means "Worship the Lord and keep your receipts". Prozac.

24. Anzac. 25. A German word, meaning

Zeitgeist". 26. A now discredited theory that the universe began with a big bang, a drum roll a sudden hush and the appearance of God with scissors to cut the ribbon. 27. It is the name given by psychologists to our habit of cheerily waving to and greeting familiar people in the street, and only realising later that they weren't old friends - they were someone famous, such as Angus Deayton.

28. The three most often told so-called funny stories in Britain end as follows:-

'Nein, double u' b) "My sister? Oh, she is still Queen." c) "That's easy - Goethe wrote Faust and Joyce wrote Ulysses." 29. It is a word applied to things that seem to be eponyms, but aren't. In

other words, words which suggest that things are named after people, though they really aren't, such as billboard, jackknife, martingale, etc. 30. A film called Matinée on the Bounty. 31. An old-fashioned device for removing false moustaches from inside violins.

32. Kind of Scottish rock cake known as the Auld Score of Stone. 33. The only countries in which it is a crime to use a mobile phone in a train. 34. The name given by the police to the act of sending obscene faxes. 35. Arsenal, in 1949, in white shorts and red shirts. They were found two weeks later, apparently unharmed but

totally dazed and unable to remember what had happened to them. 36. A slang term used by Martians to refer to one of their number who has lived for over 10 years on Earth without attracting suspicion or being fired by John Major.

37. Because when Emma Nicholson leaves the Tory party, it is called "defecting", but when Mr Portillo tries to leave Europe, it is called "safe-guarding our sacred national unity". 38. It is a term given by supermarket workers to the informal supermarket trolleys races that are often held by supermarket workers after hours when the shops are shut and the aisles are invitingly empty. (The trol-leys often suffer damage in these races and hereafter only steer to the left or the right, though the general public never suspects the true cause of this commonly noticed defect.) 39. A term given by psychologists to the way in which famous people like Angus Deayton will ignore greetings offered to them in the street, and only realise five minutes later, with a shock,

that that person offering a courteous "Helio" was actually Paul Merton. 40. A film called Monotony on the Bounty. 41. The odd man out is Brian Mawhin ney. All the rest are doctors.

Freckles peculiar to a carnel. 43. The form of Morse code used by deaf people. 44. The act of writing the life of Boswell.

45. An Irish health warning 46. A secret sign used by dentists to recognise each other.

Sir: Professor James Meade (Obituaries, 29 December) was my contemporary at Malvern College, a school of which some Oxford academics had never

47. Moon-dried tomatoes. 48. A film called Botany on the

Record delivery for a Christmas card? Opsahl proceedings showed how

From Mrs Jennifer E. Jarrett Sir: While recognising the great achievement of the Royal Mail in delivering a record number of letters and cards this Christmas, we hope that our own experience has not been repeated too many times up and down the land.

We have been receiving redirected mail for our daughter. In the redirected package received on 12 December there was a Christmas card, sent in error, which was correctly addressed to a neighbour of my daughter further down the road. We wrote a local post box.

greatly increases beyond this point. Unfortunately, the Gov-ernment has ruled out even another redirected package, and out popped our friendly card with all its cryptic messages, having now travelled 1,500 miles further than its original journey. Is this friendly little greetings card destined, like a spacecraft thrown off course, to travel for-

> Yours sincerely. JENNIFER E. JARRETT Pirton, Hertfordshire 2 January

School ties

included, perhaps Camelot heard. Bullying was endemic and means to manliness. Meade used

Canterbury Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171. 293 2056; e-mail: letters@ independent co.uk) Letters may

be edited for length and clarity.

Major must not be deflected from the path to peace by drugs vigilantes or parliamentary arithmetic

There are more ways than one to challenge the authority of the organised street patrols and vigilantes balaclava, saunter into a bar, or lean across a car, and shoot a suspected drugs dealer or two. By killing them, the IRA isn't simply acting as a somewhat extreme wing of Belfast Neigh-bourhood Watch: it is arrogating to itself the rights of trial, judgment and punishment. It is celebrating its own authority.

Because the IRA is not a liberal organisation, and most people are not natural liberals either, there will be some confusion about the morality of these killings.
Although Ulster Unionists and

British ministers are treating the deaths as a threat to the Irish peace process, they don't instantly seem like a threat to anything at all except the drugs trade. It is rough justice, many will think. But most voters are, like the IRA, firmly in favour of the death penalty; and they loathe drugs dealers. These are unpleasant sentiments to admit after such murders, perhaps, but they are very widespread and need to be dealt with.

When Northern Irish eyes look south and see a drugs culture in Dublin which they fear and despise. they are being clear-sighted, not bigoted. For Dublin has a serious heroin problem, which has driven people there to desperation.

It was brilliantly summed up in "Whacker Humphries", a protest song by Christy Moore, in which the singer defended a flower seller who, though no angel himself, was so disgusted by the open selling of heroin that he helped to form a group called Conto protect inner-city Dublin neigh-bourhoods. Or, as Moore sings, "They called on dealers' houses and ordered them to quit/Time and time again they warned, we've had enough of it...'

Junkies weren't shot, but warned they would be "moved out". For a while, over a decade ago, the patrols had some success, though as Moore faments, Whacker Humphries eventually served a short prison sentence (for evicting an inner-city dealer with the splendidly Chicagoan name of Ma Baker). And now? Now the street patrols have gone and things are even

The Dublin comparison matters for two reasons. First, it is a useful reminder of how desperate people feel about the dealing of hard drugs in areas where the state seems unable to stop it. If few take the law into their own hands, many more wish someone else would. How many inner-city Britons, told that a vigilante group had been formed to deal with local junkies, or that a notorious dealer had been summarily executed, would privately

Thus the IRA, arch-enemy of popular opinion, is, on the issue of drugs dealers, merely acting out the "string 'em up" instincts of its critics. On some questions, the IRA commander and the archetypal London cabbie are in deep, if illiberal, accord.

Indeed, these are widely-held instincts: everywhere, people lap up the vengeful morality tales that star Schwarzenegger and Clint Eastwood blasting anti-social elements to pieces. If all communities contained the kind



The IRA is acting out the 'string 'em up' instincts of its critics

of heavily armed and socially conservarive gangs that Belfast boasts, who knows what would happen to the local retail outlets of the Colombian cartels? Politicians call loosely for a war against drugs; now they know what a real one would look like.

This, in essence, is why the southern capital has such a heroin crisis while Belfast doesn't - some 5,400 addicts, against just 23 registered heroin abusers in the northern city. It isn't because the people of Northern Ire-land are abnormally moralistic and intolerant of drugs - Dublin's Catholics are just as traditionalist in these matters. The real answer is simply that Belfast's terrorists control their host communities far more effectively than

the legally restricted police can do. Having acknowledged that, we need to turn to the IRA's motivation, which is at least triple-layered. There is first (and least importantly) the puritanism of any revolutionary organisation.

youth and turn them away from a fer-vent concentration on British oppres-sion. Just as heroin is the ultimate denial of the world of work, pensions, relationships and personal progress the ultimate short-term consumer high - so it is also the ultimate rejection of politics and rebellion. These days, the opium of the people is opium.

Second, there is the need of the IRA to reassert its authority during a long ceasefire which may, or may not, lead to a peace agreement. It cannot survive unless it has the fear and respect of working-class Catholics. These are given because of its ability and will-ingness to act violently - if not against British troops, then against "social par-asites". Just as primitive states worried that their authority would be under-mined without regular and violent expressions of their powers, so the IRA acts now. Shootings and punishment beatings are the solemn Tyburn of the Republican revolutionaries.

Third, and connected to this, is the IRA's message to outsiders that it is still armed and ready - and is becom-ing impatient with the refusal of the other parties to allow Sinn Fein to participate in talks. There has been a lot of hysteria about the message. But it is probably regarded by the IRA as a

comparatively mild one.

Had it really lurched out of politi-cal control, as John Taylor, the Ulster Unionists' deputy leader, alleges, then it would have broken the peace accord properly, and killed some politicians or RUC men. But in a grisly way, it reckons that the deaths of drugs dealers are a lesser thing, merely a sign of

These guys really don't approve of irritation, and will be taken by the drugs, which dull the minds of Catholic authorities as such. And in a grisly way. authorities as such. And in a grisly way,

it is quite right.
Yet this is a dangerous game for the IRA, as for its victims. It cannot for long use Catholic civilians as target practice. There is evidence that it is already running out of credible big-time villains. The latest man to die was not by anyone's reckoning an important player; there must come a point when even the least squeamish, least liberal local onlooker thinks the gun-

men are going too far.
What comes next? The murder of teenage joyriders? The machinegunning of tousle-headed shoplifters? The further extempore gun law is extended, the more people will eventually revolt against it and conclude that for all its faults and failures, legalistic and political solutions are better. This, after all, is the story of political progress across the world. It is why millions of natural illiberals have nevertheless eventually organised them-selves into liberal polities. John Major has a duty now, as

before, to make it as easy as humanly possible for republicanism to find a political role in a liberal state. The Commons majority suggests that he cought to feel intimidated by the Unionist demand that he break links with Sinn Fein. But that would be the worst reaction. This long, slow and dangerous tiptoe towards a more decent Northern Ireland is the greatest thing he has half-achieved. Flinching now because of parliamentary arithmetic would betray not just himself, but the very democracy he is trying to promote. And even drugs dealers deserve a better memorial than that.

response. Another, as we have seen over the past year, is the loyalty card, pioneered by Sainsbury's great rival

The genius here is not so much that

by giving a discount to regular shop-

by giving a discount to regular shop-pers you persuade people to switch to your stores. Rather it is that if you chart a regular shopper's weekly pur-chases, you can build a picture of their entire lives: how much and what they

drink, the rough age of their children,

what their pets like to eat (or rather

what the owners think their pets like

to eat), whether the goldfish has died.

So there are perhaps two candidates for successors to the kiwi-fruit period.

One might be dubbed "Victorian val-

ues" - straightforward emphasis on

quality at the best price. This might

Americans are

amazed at the food in

M&S; there is nothing

like it in the world

Roll up for the great rollover

As punters dream of a jackpot, William Hartston looks at the odds on pulling off a lottery coup

Porty million pounds eh? That must be worth a small flutter. The renewed outbreak of lottery fever this week, thanks to the double rollover and promise of the biggest jackpot ever, shows that our nation of gamblers has again fallen for the lure of a gigantic crock of gold. Now there are reports of syndicates mounting militarystyle operations to buy all 14 million combinations of numbers to ensure they scoop the

ackpot. It has been done in other countries. It's just a question of waiting until the prize becomes hig enough, backing every possible combination, and you cannot fail to win. A reporter from the Daily Star even claimed to have had Barings Bank thinking for half an hour over his request for a £14m loan to finance his sure-fire lottery coup. Yet Barings was quite right to turn him down. Considerably less than halfan-hour's thought is needed to realise that the gamble is still a bad one, even if you could find an army of friendly local newsagents with the time to process 14 million lottery tickets for you.

The problem is that you will probably have to share the top prize with other winners - more other winners than is financially comfortable. In an average week on the lottery, 65 million tickets are sold. With only 13,983,816 different ways of picking six numbers from 49, each combination will be subscribed an average of 4.6 times, which is therefore the average number of people expected to have to share the dividend. This week, however, we are told to expect sales of 115 million tickets, which works out at an average of more than eight to each possible combination. And £40m shared among eight is a measly 5 million guid each.

Ah yes, but it's not only the top prize we'll win, is it? Our 14 million tickets will reap plenty of other dividends, too. All the other dividends, in fact. We'll win six prizes of five numbers plus the bonus, and thousands of the lower dividends.

But all that still does not add up to your investment. Of the £115m spent on tickets, half goes into prizes. Of that half, 52 per cent is earmarked for the jackpot, which leaves a return on investment of just 24 per cent from the non-jackpot prizes. So your total return is your £5m share of the top prize. plus 24 per cent of your £13,983,816 investment - which adds up to less than £8.4m. That figure may be boosted

a little by the guaranteed £I:1 prizes that are independent of the number of tickets sold, bu: your syndicate still stands to make a considerable loss. And that's not counting the tax bilisince you have eliminated a l risk from the flutter, the Inland Revenue might decide to treat your prize as investment

Similar coups have been suc-cessful in Australian and American state lotteries, and in Ireland - but all of these locations have considerably fewer overall ticket sales, and thus less likelihood of having to share the jackpot with too

many other punters.

There is, however, on: strategy that guarantees lottery success. A very clear pattern has emerged in the number of people sharing the jackpot each week. The largest numbers of winners occur when the six numbers are well spread. The weeks when nobody wins at all have been those where two or three of the winning numbers have been close together. The first ever rollover had 29 and 30, the next had 21, 22, 25, the third had 41, 42, 44 and so on. People aren't betting on birth-

Every 14 million weeks or so, you'l win £20m and not have to share it

days, or numbers with sevenin them as was originall claimed. They are betting on superficial randomness. So all vou bave to do is buy your tickets only in rollover weeks. when the jackpot is sure to be more than £20m, and select :batch of closely grouped numbers. Every 14 million weekor so, you will win £20m and will not have to share it with

anvone. Since you will also have picked up around £3.5m in smaller prizes, it all adds up to a 68 per cent return on your investment. The only trouble is that if you buy just one ticket a week, it would take half a million years before you could expect to move into

profit. But if 100,000 of us were to get together in a syndicate and bet on all the unpopular, closel: grouped combinations, we'd make a killing by the turn of the millennium. Unless, of course. somebody else had the same

Check out the change in store

Supermarkets have brought about one food revolution. What does the future hold for shoppers?

If you are not aware that J Sainsbury s making dramatic cuts in the prices of 200 goods you have not been reading the newspapers: big double-page adverts are shouting that items such as an anti-perspirant or a low-fat fool will be two for the price of one this

Now of course in one sense this is just another version of the January sales applied to the grocery business. And we all know that supermarkets do not offer low prices out of the goodness of their hearts; they offer them because they want to pack in the punters - and then make the profit by selling them something else

But I believe the Sainsbury's campaign is also symptomatic of bigger changes in the industry, in which the



supermarkets are learning to live in a world where prices are stable and consumers far more sensitive to variations

We have the most powerful super-markets in the world, dominating our lifestyle and culture in an unparalleled way. They are unusual in three main ways. They earn higher margins on food than any others; the top three (Sainsbury, Tesco and Asda) control a higher proportion of sales than the top three in any other country; and they sell a higher proportion of own-label products and fresh prepared foods than elsewhere.

These three distinctive features are interlinked, though the precise nature of the links is hotly disputed. The high gross profit margins must to some extent be associated with concentration, though the chains understandably enough deny that they exploit their oligopoly power. They argue that the main reason their mark-ups are higher than in the US is because of their extra costs: higher land prices and planning controls make the building of new supermarkets more expensive.

Planning controls probably have encouraged concentration, but I suspect that the really important reason both for concentration and for fat margins is the third feature: the astonishing level and sophistication of product development that our supermarkets now carry out, particularly in

own-label and fresh foods. Think about it. If you are simply



Packing them in: the January sales come to groceries at Salnsbury's

selling branded products from other cturers - Heinz tomato soup or Nescafé, to take two of the products on the Sainsbury 200 list - all you are selling on is price. You add nothing to the brand name, except to sell it in

pleasant and convenient surroundings. So you make the serious money by doing things other people cannot. We have long had a tradition here of upmarket own-label products, whereas in the US until recently these were rather tacky imitations of branded lines. The advantage of own-label is that stores can experiment, testing new products directly on customers and seeing which lines sell, rather than relying on the marketing departments of some distant food manufacturer. The result of this has been that product development has become customer-led, rather than producer-led.

The outstanding genius in product development was not one of the regular supermarkets but Marks & Spencer. If the food-writer Elizabeth David transformed the way middleclass, cooking Britons cooked, M&S has transformed the way non-cooking Brits eat. Americans visiting M&S food stores are astonished at the variety and sophistication of the prepared foods on sale. We regard this as normal; actually there is nothing quite

like it in the world. Americans are also astonished by the prices, which pitch closer to a restaurant meal than to regular unprepared food. But it works: people pay. Once it became clear that M&S was making a fortune out of high-quality fresh food, the supermarkets followed, with the results we see all about us. There has been, for perhaps the past

15 years, a relentless, almost frantic search for new and more exciting ways to persuade us to spend money on yet more exotic food.

We are now, I think, nearing the end of this phase - let's call it the kiwi-fruit period I cannot prove it, but I suspect that the Great British Shopper is beginning to tire of endless innovation and to prefer straightforward good quality at the lowest possible cost.

As the population ages, expect this revolt to gather pace. And as inflation disappears expect much more emphasis on price, for people will get used to the idea of certain items always costing the same, known amount. Pricecutting by the mainline chains, either in the form of January sales or continuous low prices on a handful of popular lines, is one response.

But it is not the only possible beans for the price of one.

seem slightly staid, but it could be tailored to the day-to-day concerns of an ageing population: healthy food grown for taste rather than show, meat from animals treated with decency and dispatched with dignity, non-polluting products (witness Sainsbury's clean diesel fuel), and so on. The other candidate might be called

"know thy customer" - supermarkets which have so much information about their shoppers that they are able to tailor products very closely to their observed choices. The more a stores group knows about its customers, the easier it can cross-sell other products, perhaps with higher mark-ups. So young families can be sold life assurance or pension plans, gardeners new garden kit, students new bank accounts.

We cannot know how the pattern of retailing will develop over the next generation. We operate now on a system developed in the US in the 1950s, when quite suddenly the developed world moved from a daily shop in different places to a weekly or even monthly one in a single place. A combination of women working, the car and the supermarket trolley made this possible.

Maybe the present supermarket system will continue for another couple of generations. Or maybe something more radical will happen and "know thy customer" will lead to an even more profound shift than the supermarket revolution itself. But that is a long way from two tins of



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ANOTHER VIEW John Swift

A railway attractive and accessible to all

The January Which? report has I received a lot of publicity. As the independent Rail Regulator, I am naturally concerned with its results. Let me explain how I have been seeking to improve the accuracy of information supplied to passengers, which is a necessary basis for the operation of an efficient railway in which passengers are entitled to the exercise of choice between competing operators

and services. The new railway structure marks a radical change from the old monopoly. In the new railway, passenger train companies have the opportunity to

market their services independently of each other. Passengers should have much more choice about how to arrive at their destinations and about fares. That is the result of the introduction of competition. But operators must also work in co-operation with each other. That is to secure the maintenance of network benefits. And passenger expectations are higher, and rightly so. In July 1995, I approved new rules, as part of the new structure, that require every passenger train operator to provide impartial information about the fares and timetables offered by all train operators. In effect, it was

turning every staffed ticket office into an "independent" travel agent.

Giving passengers more choice means that operators will have to explain the options clearly and impartially; passengers will also have to be clear about what matters most to them: is the cheapest fare, possibly involving a longer journey and several changes, more important than speed and frequency? Establishing what really meets passengers needs best is

I could not demand the introduction of a new national train information service to replace the existing sys-

tem overnight. I had to work with what we had. And I gave the operators until 22 October before the rules on impartial selling came into force. This gave operators a chance to train their staff - a programme that was not completed when the Which? survey was carried out. I monitored it in November. I received the findings just before Christmas, On the "lowest fares" question, one out of five answers was wrong. That tells me further improvements must be carried out throughout the network. Moreover, I have required all operators to

structure to produce an improved railway - both opportunities and controls. If the rules are broken, if operators are not doing what their competitors require them to do, I shall not besitate in enforcing the terms of the relevant licence. But that is a last resort. My expectation is that mutual interest in the supply of accurate information to passengers, using up-todate technology, will make the railway more accessible and attractive to all.

in the case of telephone inquiry

bureaux. These are all part of the new

reach new standards of performance The writer is the Rail Regulator.

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BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2530 fax 0171-293

THE INDEPENDENT • Thursday 4 January 1996

Share markets scale new peaks

Economics Correspondent

Share prices in London closed at a new record yesterday, powered by a further surge on Wall Street, and hopes of lower interest rates. Investors shrugged off turmoil in the

Conservative Party.
The London rally came on the back of new optimism about the prospects for a deal between President Clinton and Congress on the budget which sent US shares higher again yesterday. The Federal Reserve is firmly expected to cut interest rates as a reward for an agreement ending the stalemate that has partially closed the Feder-

the day nearly 28 points higher at 3715.6. This was lower than the day's highs, but the tone was set in the morning by euphoria over Tuesday's 60 point gain in the Dow Jones index. A weak survey of manufacturing also helped by confirming interest

The Dow rose more than 18 points at 5195.88 by midday. By the time London closed, many European bourses had already set their own records. Frankfurt ended just below its all-time high, while Paris was sharply

Since the beginning of 1995 shares in Britain and the US have made spectacular advances. The FT-SE 100 index

points, a 21 per cent increase. Wall Street has risen by 35 per cent. A widespread belief in the "January factor", whereby the stockmarket's performance in the first month sets the tone for the rest of the year, has also contributed to market optimism. However, many analysts are cautious about prospects

Mark Brown, chief strategist at brokers Hoare Govett, said: 'We are now in the middle of a speculative bubble driven by liquidity. Like all bubbles, it will burst at some stage." He added that London would underperform other markets because political uncertainties loomed so large this year.

The dollar bounced to its

analysts expect the US currency to move higher than the level of ¥104.6 and DM1.4421 it had reached by midday yesterday in New York. "This year the dollar will go up and stay up," said Paul Chertkow at investment bank UBS. The budget talks resumed

yesterday, with reports that Tuesday's meeting had been productive. The approach of President Clinton's State of the Union address later this month and the start of the presidential primaries are seen as powerful motives to end the stalemate.

"The overwhelming feeling is that we're going to get a credible budget agreement," said Kevin Flanagan, an analyst at Street. At Chemical Bank, Malcolm Barr added: "US bonds and equities seem to be dragging the dollar up". The market consensus is that

the dollar will climb past ¥110

markets looked attractive to international investors.

The financial markets strength is driven by expectations of further cuts in interest rates by the Federal Reserve. It shaved a quarter point off its key Federal Funds rate last month

"That move was a downpayment. The Fed will do more if there is a budget deal," said Mr Chertkow. The Fed cut rates from 5.75

to 5.5 per cent last month. Its next policy meeting takes place on 30-31 January. The dollar reached ¥104.65

on 20 September, up from a low of ¥80.63 six months earlier thanks to co-ordinated action by the G7 industrial countries. It

SelecTV deal

MATHEW HORSMAN Media Editor

Advisers to Pearson and SelecTV were yesterday locked in last-minute talks aimed at announcing their long-awaited deal by as early as tomorrow. Provided the final price can be agreed, Pearson is expected to bid about £45m for SelectTV, maker of Birds of a Feather and Lovejoy, by way of a public of-

fer for the company's shares. The offer, which is likely to be unveiled before market opening tomorrow, will be accompanied by an announce-ment that SelecTV's cable channel is to be sold separately, for as much as £5m. The probable buyer is Carlton. Michael Green's TV media company, which has been look-ing to launch a UK cable operation fed by its Carlton and

Central programming libraries. Talks with Granada about launching a joint cable-exclusive channel featuring both Carlton and Granada programming failed last year, according to informed sources. Granada has since made a deal with BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, to launch as many as eight new channels. Included is a "Granada Gold" channel based in part on re-runs of Coronation Street.

A Carlton spokesman re-fused to confirm whether the

gotiations over SelecTV. "It is not our policy to comment on

market speculation," he said. Pearson, which is interested only in SelecTV's independent production operations and its programming library, is also expected to sell SelecTV's 15 per cent stake in Meridian to MAI, which already owns 61 per cent of the ITV licence-holder. The price is believed to be as much as £30m. An MAI

comment. Talks between Pearson and SelecTV have been under way since November, and efforts to close a deal by Christmas foundered due to the length of time Pearson's advisers took to

complete due diligence.
The acquisition is part of Pearson's strategy of expanding into independent television production. It owns Thames Television, one of the UK's largest producers, and last year paid . £175m for Grundy Worldwide, ' the maker of Neighbours, the popular soap. Subsequently, it reed to buy the US-based TV distribution partnership ACI.

Pearson Television is expected to make further deals in 1996, under an aggressive expansion strategy developed by Greg Dyke, its chief executive and the former head of London Weekend Television.

Manufacturing industry staged a slight recovery last month but managers' index rose above the remained in a fragile state, according to a monthly survey of between expansion and decline,

purchasing managers, writes Diane Coyle. Yesterday's report of an endof-year improvement posed no threat to the prospect of further base rate cuts, economists said - especially as the survey showed that the prices manu-

facturers paid for materials had

fallen for the second consecu-

tive month. The purchasing key level of 50, the dividing line after dipping below it in No-

vember. The survey of 290 firms by the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply showed that output and employment rose, new orders fell less sharply and the stockpile of finishe goods shrank.

Peter Thomson, director gen-

eral of the CIPS, said the downward trend in the economy since the middle of last year was worrying. "This is rather sobering news for the start of 1996," he said. "There are manufac-turing companies that are more efficient than they have ever been, but they cannot put that

efficiency to good use if they don't have the meat to grind." City economist Jonathan Loynes at HSBC Markets was also downbeat. "There are no

real signs of hope here for manufacturing," he said. Mr Loynes said more base rate cuts would be needed this year. The next monetary meeting between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Gover-

nor of the Bank of England is due on 17 January. However, other economists took heart from the figures. "The shortterm prospects for manufacturing are not as dire as some would have us believe," said Geoff Dicks, chief UK economist at NatWest Markets.

vised 49.9 in November. The output component rose for the second consecutive month to its highest level since last April. Employment accelerated too. with companies recruiting to boost capacity. On the other

hand, the level of new orders declined, although at a slower pace than in November.

ished goods fell in December. The overall index climbed to - The report said the desire to reduce stock levels might explain 50.7 last month, up from a rethe small deterioration in order books. Prices paid for materials fell significantly, pointing to lower inflation at the factory gate in the coming mouths. There was clear evidence that remaining supply bottlenecks eased. Deliveries of supplies were faster for the third consecutive month. .

MPs may look into gas deals

Industrial Correspondent

British Gas contracts with its predicament. North Sea producers that are forcing the company to pay hundreds of millions of pounds

for gas which it cannot yet sell. has called for the investigation market, should take part of because it tears that consumers rather than shareholders will end up footing the bill for the should help to pay through a contracts. Martin O'Neill, the levy on the use of the pipelines, chairman of the committee, but the GCC argues that ulticonfirmed that the issue would week. British Gas said that it would cooperate fully in any in-

The issue exploded at the end of last year when Clare Spottiswoode, the industry watchdog, warned that the problem could pose a threat to British Gas' financial security.

She is currently considering whether some of the cost of the contracts should be passed through to consumers through the domestic price control formula.

British Gas has appealed for The House of Commons Trade government support in reneand Industry Select Committee gotiating the contracts or in may launch an inquiry into finding some other solution to

The company argues that the contracts were entered into when it had a monopoly in the supply of gas and that the Gov-The Gas Consumers Council ernment, by opening up the the blame. One solution mooted is that other gas suppliers mately this too would hurt con-

facts we must resist any notion that consumers should pay," he

Sony victory in consoles battle

NIGEL COPE and

arch-rival Sega in the Christmas computer games battle, as speculation grows that Nintendo is unlikely to launch its new console in Europe until 1997.

UK, the machine is still planned for a 1996 launch." The com-

pany's UK distributor Total

Home Entertainment says it ex-

pects the new console to be

In the key Christmas period,

the Sony PlayStation appears to

have won the battle of the con-

soles with the Sega Saturn. The PlayStation sold 35,000 units in

December while Sega racked up sales of 25,000, according to fig-

ures supplied by the two com-

launched in September.

the launch of its Ultra 64 system several times and a further delay would put it even further behind in the cut-throat electronic games market which is worth £2bn worldwide. Nintendo refused to confirm the setback yesterday saying: "As far as we are concerned in the

Ian Powe, director of the GCC, said: "Whoever is at fault it is not customers." Mr Powe said he had no desire to see British Gas "go to the wall" but that the Trade and Industry Committee could at least ensure that all the issues were fully and

"Until we are given all the

panies. Since the new-genera-MATHEW HORSMAN tion game systems were launched last year, Sony claims Sony is claiming victory over its sales of 135,000 while Sega puts its total at 80,000.

Jeremy Crisp, of Sega's marketing department, said: "We are delighted with the figures, and the early indications for Nintendo has already delayed January are also excellent." He added that the Saturn

managed to generate its sales by spending far less than Sony on TV and other advertising. Sony has set aside a budget of £20m for its PlayStation campaign. Both companies say that newgeneration 32-bit systems have already generated strong sales saying it was selling four games for every console. January is traditionally a strong month for titles to go with consoles they

received as Christmas gifts. Sony says its best selling games are Tekken, Ridge Racer and Fifa '96 with Mortal Kombat also selling well. It also expects strong sales for Total NBA, a new basketball game to be launched in the Spring.



Food giant faces sermon on the evils of tobacco at its general meeting

Priests join in the pressure to force split of RJR Nabisco

DAVID USBORNE

The odds that RJR Nabisco may be forced by its shareholders into an early spin-off of its food division have shortened significantly thanks to the persistence of an unlikely foe: the Catholic church.

Specifically, two groups of priests and brothers have been given formal clearance by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to submit a resolution to the company's next general meeting in April, demanding the immediate separation of its food division from its tobacco interests.

By their action, the priests have found themselves in alliance with two rather betterknown corporate figures also pressing for the break-up of RJR

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ource: FT Information

Nabisco, Carl Icahn and Bennett LeBow earlier this week launched a consent solicitation seeking backing from other

Together, Mr LeBow, Florida financier, and Mr Icahn, hold 13 million shares in RJR Nabisco and could represent a serious threat to the company's management, which contends that it is aiming at a spin-off of the Nabisco division in the future, but not before

As well as seeking support for a spin-off resolution, the pair are also plotting to put in place

The priests, by contrast, have only 980 shares in the company between them. more potent, however. While

Their action may prove the

the LeBow-Icahn resolution

Day's change Change (%) 1995/96 Eigh 1995/96 Low Yield(%)

1993.11

1837 78

5207.44

2954.20 3.85

1469.23 3.75

3832 08 2.23

20011.76 14485.41 0.76†

STOCK MARKETS

would require an absolutely majority of all shareholders for passage, the priests' needs only a majority of shares actually

And while RJR Nabisco has not flinched from hurling vitriol at messrs Icahn and LeBow, accusing them of conspiring eventually to take over the whole company, taking on the priests in public may be more

Their action is motivated by a conscientious objection to the association of Nabisco foods with the tobacco industry and the health problems related to it.

The action by the SEC, which was in response to request by RJR Nabisco to have the priests' resolution blocked, triggered jubilation at the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers

Board Yields

"It's almost as if we wrote the SEC's ruling outselves and obviously we're very happy," said the Reverend Joseph La Mar. The missionary is proposing its resolution together with the Glenmary Home Missioner of

Cincinnati, Ohio. RJR Nabisco, which claims that pending legal problems related to the tobacco business make an early spin-off unadvisable, has already indicated that it will no longer challenge the brothers' inititiative.

The company has not quite been able to resist taking a shot at them, however. "The fathers want an excuse to rail against the tobacco business. spokesman sneered in a statement published by the New York Times yesterday.

7.65

8,68

7.85

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940 108 10.3

Halifax 'in talks to take over life insurer'

NIC CICUTTI

Halifax Building Society is be-lieved to be holding talks with a large mutual life company in a takeover bid aimed at boosting its market share in the fi-

nancial services sector. Industry sources say the so-ciety, which is to become a bank next year following its recent merger with Leeds Permanent, has examined several potential companies, both in Scotland and England.

Halifax already has a financial services arm, covering both life products and unit trusts. Following the merger with Leeds

Life in August, it now has about 150,000 policyholders. Experts believe that taking over another life insurer would allow Halifax to cut back-office costs quickly for both parties instead of waiting to build up its own business over several years.
It would also give it an entry

financial advice distribution channel, which recent surveys show is among the most pro-ductive in sales terms.

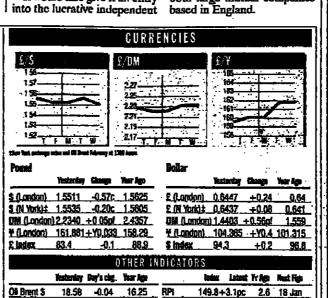
James Crosby, managing director of Halifax Financial Services, said: "We know there is a lot going on out there and there are a lot of opportunities

for organisations like ourselves.
"I would simply say that from
time to time we will look at [those opportunities]. It would be surprising if someone is not looking at a number of options and then moving on. But we are under no pressure to do anything by way of looking at our new business."

Mr Crosby added that since Halifax Life was launched 12 months ago business had im-proved significantly after a poor first six months. Among firms said to be ripe

for a takeover bid by Halifax are Provident Mutual and NPI, both large mutual companies

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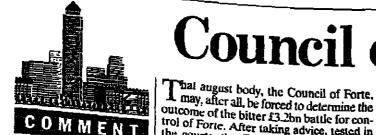
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'If Lord Callaghan and his colleagues on the Council decide

not to sell to Granada, the bid is finished regardless of the views of other shareholders'

Lord Callaghan and his colleagues on the Council decide not to sell to Granada, the bid is finished regardless of the views of other shareholders. So far the stock market appears not fully to have appreciated this. Plainly, the Countries cil's position is a ridiculous and indefensible one. Other Forte shareholders are certain to find the idea that an institution with less than one per cent of the shares is in a position to over rule their collective power completely unacceptable. Unfortunately for them it can, and unless Granada comes up with a very substantial premium for the Council's shares, it fully intends to. Council members no doubt share the common sense view that the majority should decide,

uncomfortable position of having to exercise

archaic powers which give its tiny fraction

holders to decide, as happened in the last

assault on Forte. What this means is that if

no legal duty to other shareholders. The Council's origins lie deep in the tem-perance roots of the old Trusthouse chain

but the fact of the matter is that they have

That august body, the Council of Forte, may, after all, be forced to determine the booze, for the hungry traveller. Such powers of enforcement are rarely needed these trol of Forte. After taking advice, tested in the courts, the Council finds itself in the days but the Council has a parallel duty as a charitable trust. In bid situations, there is a fiduciary duty to get the best possible price. of the company's capital more than 50 per cent of the voting rights. There is, it is understood, no possibility of the Council standing aside and allowing other share-holders to decide as homeoned in the last Since the Council has control, its shares

should command a massive premium over the price being offered to others, is the advice that has been given. The Council meets tomorrow to decide what that premium should be.

The Takeover Panel has little guidance to offer in such circumstances. Where there are two classes of share, the two offers are meant to be comparable; the premium offered on one class of share should be no more than the premium at which they were trading before the bid. The comparability rule provides no help in this case, however, since the Council's shares have never traded and no value has therefore been put on its controlling position.

So what's it worth? More than £300m according to the most hawkish view since that would represent half the 20 per cent premium Granada is offering for control. That's quite something for a stake nominally worth less than £3m and is plainly a non starter. The Council may nonetheless feel obliged to go for a sum which adds signficantly to Granada's bid costs.

Council members must be hoping that Gerry Robinson does what many commengracefully. Otherwise the unprecedented | bined with a moderate risk of capital profit position they find themselves in could turn | or loss. But many providers charge a fee to into a rather embarrassing one.

Council of Forte faces uncomfortable decisions

Competing for a slice of £20bn

More than two million people must decide within the next few months what to do with the savings and tax-free interest accumulated over the last five years in Tessa accounts. Something like £20bn is available for reinvestment and redeployment; the competition for a slice of this is the nearest thing the UK has yet seen to a full-blown price war in the market for savings.

Inertia favours the Tessa providers, who have been trying to persuade holders to roll their capital forward into a new Tessa. Typically, Tessa investors are traditional savers, most at home with banks and building societies. Relatively few are comfortable with the idea of taking risk. Most have learned to be suspicious of financial salesmen and the commissions and management charges lev-

elled. In all but highly performing funds, investment returns are significantly reduced.

Even so, the biggest challenge to Tessas comes from Personal Equity Plans, which offer tax-free investment with the prospect of better returns and some risk. Six months ago it looked as if the main competitor would be corporate bond funds held in Peps. of hotels. Its purpose was to ensure that the | tators are urging him to and withdraws | They offer returns of up to 8 per cent com-

join, a fee to exit the fund and an annual management charge, all of which significantly reduces the return.

Now it looks as if the main challenge will be from Peps invested in shares, and specifically shares which track the performance of the stock market as a whole. Tracker funds are cheap to run because they need fewer analysis and managers.

Recognising this, Fidelity, the Americanowned investment group, has just launched a new fund on which there is no entry charge, no exit charge and the annual charge is just 0.5 per cent. Legal & General has replied by trimming its own charge to equal Fidelity, and Virgin has indicated it will shortly follow suit. Future investment performance cannot be guaranteed. But over the last few years trackers have performed better than most managed unit trusts. Low-charging trackers look like becoming the all too bleak future for many fund managers. Good news for us though.

Tax changes that cut no ice

abour calls it a tax bombshell, pointing Ao a hidden tax hike of £850m. The government presents it as part of a modernising drive to simplify the tax system which will help the self-employed. Both are firing

off target - but it is hard to see how the selfemployed stand to benefit from the introduction of self-assessment and the associated shift in the basis of assessment of tax liability from previous to current year.

One interpretation of the changes is mistaken; thanks to cushioning transitional arrangements, the self-employed will not have to pay two years' tax in one. However, the new regime will undoubtedly yield more income for the Inland Revenue, since the self-employed will no longer be years in arrears. This accounts for at least part of the £850m increment in revenue; the rest will be paid only if the self-employed businesses turn out to grow in profitability as much as the Treasury hopes.

Set against the blow of having to pay lax on the nail are alleged gains from simplifying the tax system. Some hope. One leading firm of accountants, Ernst & Young, has already called for the countdown to current year assessment for the self-employed to he halted. Philip Davis, their expert on selfassessment, says that the new system is no simpler than the previous one.

The administrative convenience may impress ministers but is unlikely to cut much ice among the ranks of the self-employed whose interests they claim to hold so dear. On the other hand, Labour's campaign would be less self-serving if it pledged to revert to the previous system of assessment in arrears - something on which it remains conspicuously silent. Surprise, surprise.

Forte battle: Bidder prepares to be specific about its promises as share registers reveal cross-holdings

Granada details £100m savings

MATHEW HORSMAN and JOHN SHEPHERD

Granada is poised to bury Forte's management in an avalanche of detailed promises on how it intends to run the hotels and restaurant company, as part of a last-ditch effort to win its £3.3bn hostile bid.

The detailed breakdown of Granada's promised £100m in savings show how Granada intends achieve half that amount through rebranding, higher room rates and reworked restaurant menus. The rest will come from head-office savings and centralised purchasing.

The figures, to be released by Granada next week, are likely to be accompanied by a sweetened offer – although analysts differ

The Forte stakes

Top 10 shareh	olders
Institution	% held
Mercury Asset Mgt	13.23
Gartmore	2.92
Prudential	2.86
Capital Group	2.76
Legal & General	2.29
Baring	2.29
Standard Life	2.28
BZWIM	1.92
Hermes	1.89
Robert Fleming	1.78
Total	34.22

Performance of Forte's main hotel branches FORTE

EXCLUSIVE HOTELS Heritage BY FORTE

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chief operating officer, declined

to comment on the breakdown,

saying it would be unveiled next

Monday or Tuesday. The fresh details emerged as the powerful Council of Forte, which owns less than 1 per cent of Forte's shares but controls 50 per cent of the votes. met with advisers from both sides yesterday. A spokesman for the council said: "No conclusions have been reached and we are continuing discussions

with both parties." Sir Rocco Forte with Keith Hamill, finance director, and Richard Power, public affairs director who was promoted to the main board on Tuesday, yesterday hosted a two-hour briefing for 50 leisure analysts from stockbroking firms and other leading City institutions.
Forte told analysts that oc-

market average. To support its controversial claim of £100m in annual savings, Granada has prepared a segment-by-segment analysis of Forte's main businesses, detailing precisely how much will be spent refurbishing the Little Chef and Happy Eater restaurants, which Forte has agreed to sell to Whitbread as part of its

Forte's main brands - Exclusive,

Meridien, Posthouse and Her-

itage - are high and in many in-

stances are well above the

defence strategy.

Just under 100 Little Chef sites are earmarked for transformation into fast-food outlets. while another 17 will get immediate reburbishment. The company intends to spend about £250,000 on each new fast-food outlet, and about £50,000 on the remaining sites. Some of the 420 Little Chef and

The restaurant business is also to get "re-engineered menus", with old-fashioned items dropped, new products introduced and more expensive. lower-margin ingredients re-moved. Granada expects to be able to improve margins by 3

percentage points through these measures. On the hotels front, the rebranding of the Post-house and Crest properties into a single upper mid-market chain will allow higher room rates. Granada will argue. Travelodge rates will also be raised by at least £5 a night, increasing to about £10 more a night

for business travellers. Forte currently charges a flat £34.50 at many of its budget hotels. By effectively doing away with Forte's head office, and reducing the number of operating

units from 12 to just three, it will

argue that it can save at least

on how much higher Granada cupancy levels in hotels in all of will go. Charles Allen, Granada's Forte's main brands – Exclusive, The restaurant business is which Forte claims it can enhance which Forte claims it can enhance profits under its own savings plan. If the Granada bid succeeds, total food and beverage supplies would cost about £320m a year,

FORTE

Posthouse

Handar of Dates - product - 19 Manufacture - 20 March -

made up of £180m for the Granada operations and £150m for Forte (not counting the motorway services business that Granad intends to sell). Granada will argue that it could achieve discounts of up to 10 per cent on its bulk purchases by dealing with fewer suppliers

and limiting the independence of line managers to reach their own supply deals. The savings could reach as much as £25m a year, Granada will claim. There were heavy dealings in Forte and Granada shares yesterday. One dealer said Ameri-

cans were buying shares in

Granada, up 7.5p to 649.5p, in the belief that its bid will fail. Forte

shares closed unchanged at 343p.

the key A new analysis of the latest available share registers of Granada and Forte highlights a

City firms

that hold

potentially novel twist to the takeover bid, writes John Shepherd.

The lists also provide plenty

of fuel for debate among fund management teams in City institutions. For the analysis shows that Forte and Granada have 87 common institutional shareholders, controlling 62.66 per cent of Forte's shares. The largest dual sharehold-

er is Mercury Asset Manage-ment with 14.41 per cent of Granada and 13.23 per cent of Forte. Without Mercury's holding, the potential power of the other 86 institutions is reduced to 49.31 per cent control over Forte's fate. By far the most unusual cross-holding is Pilkington. One can only wonder if the fund manager goes by the name of James Bond since the holding in both companies is 0.07 per

With such a large total crossshareholding it is little wonder that Gerry Robinson, chief executive of Granada, and his teams of advisers have spent a considerable amount of time over last six weeks visiting and revisiting institutions the length

and breadth of the British Isles. The question for the institutions is: will they allow individuals a free vote on the bid or impose a strict house policy? The latter is more common.

IN BRIEF

Westinghouse sells defence business

Westinghouse Electric Corporation has agreed to sell its defence electronics business to Northrop Grumman in a deal worth \$3.6bn. The company said that the transaction would allow it to cover more than 65 per cent of the \$5.4bn it borrowed to pay for CBS. In December, Westinghouse raised \$565m with the sale of its Knoli Group subsidiary, a maker of office furniture.

The deal was welcomed on Wall Street, where Westinghouse's

share price had risen a full point. Northrop will give Westinghouse \$3bn in cash for the defence electronics division, whose products include systems for command, control and electronic warfare. As a result, 45 per cent of Westinghouse sales will come from broadcast-related activities.

Portillo in plea to Philippines

Michael Portillo, Defence Minister, called on the Philippines government to honour a £100m radar contract it cancelled with GEC-Marconi. Mr Portillo, in the Philippines on a three-day visit, said he had expressed concern to the government, which decided the contract was overpriced.

Watchdogs warn on Stock Exchange rules

Industry watchdogs have warned that they will stick to the spirit but not necessarily the letter of strict Stock Exchange guidelines, issued on Tuesday, on the handling of price-sensitive information on the companies they regulate.

Sources at some of the regulators said that while they had been fully consulted on the guidelines and were in agreement with them in principle, they had to have their own independent procedures. One said: "They are guidelines. They are not

Prison for engineer who took bribes

The Serious Fraud Office secured a court victory vesterday when a Dutch marine engineer was sentenced to three years in prison after admitting taking £1.6m in bribes from a Singapore shipvard between January 1994 and May 1995. Van der Horst took the bribes for favouring Keppel shipyard in Singapore during the bidding process for ship repair contracts.

PIA recruits pensions deputy

The Personal Investment Authority, the financial services watchdog, has recruited Christopher Ham, former managing director of financial planning at Norwich and Peterborough Building Society, to be the deputy head of its pensions unit.

Production up in Germany

Industrial production in Germany rose 0.1 per cent in November, surprising economists who had expected it to decline for the fourth month in a row. Western German output was flat, while eastern German production staged a rebound of 1.7 per cent in

However, overall output remained 2.7 per cent lower than a year earlier. Since the Bundesbank reduced its key discount rate ast month, the weak output figures are not expected to point to further interest rate reductions.

Official reserves fall by \$348m

The UK's official reserves fell by \$348m in December. Adjusting for repayments of borrowing under the Exchange Cover Scheme and other public sector long-term debt repayments, the underlying decline was \$36m.

Free-for-all at Lloyds and TSB

Lloyds and TSB yesterday agreed to make their services, including all types of cash withdrawals and paying in of bills, free to cach other's customers, as part of the completion of the merger between both banks. Until now, both banks charged up to £5 or 1.5 per cent of the withdrawal for each service.

RUSSELL HOTTEN

Aston Martin sports cars, made famous by the James Bond spy movies, are to be introduced into America. Ford, the US giant which owns the Newport Pagnell company, unveiled the new Aston Martin DB7 at the

Detroit Motor Show yesterday. The 165mph vehicle will sell for about \$130,000 (£90,000) when it goes on sale in Britain this summer but UK enthusiasts are likely to have to wait while US buyers are given priority. David Price, executive chairman of Aston Martin Lagonda,

said he expects to sell about 200 of the exclusive car in the US market

World-wide, Aston Martin expects to sell 700 cars in 1996, up from 610 in 1995.

To support the new car, the company plans to nearly double its US dealer network to 20 from 11. The firm expects to have close to 100 dealers worldwide by the end of 1996 as they target a new popularity among buyers for sports cars.

No major national US advertising campaigns are planned, although Aston Martin will advertise in its high

volume regions of the West Coast, Florida and the North-

Aston Martin withdrew from the US market in 1993 because it became too costly to meet federal vehicle regulations. But the US is the world's single biggest market and it was only a matter of time before the company re-entered it.

Mr Price would not comment on Aston Martin's profitability, but said: "I should be walking around with a smile on my face in 1996."

Ford's chairman, Alex Trotman, said the automaker was

serious about its ownership of Aston Martin, which has fewer than 500 employees and has produced less than 13,000 cars

in its 83-year history.
The left-hand drive DB7 Coupe and Volante come with a 3.2-litre, six-cylinder engine capable of a maximum speed of 165mph. The interior has Connolly leather and twin airbags.

Long the signature car of fictional spy James Bond, Aston Martin lost out to BMW in the most recent Bond movie, Gold-eneye. In that film, Bond drives the new BMW Z3 convertible. Ford purchased 75 per cent

of Aston Martin Lagonda in 1987 and bought the remaining shares in 1994.

Meanwhile, Mr Trotman said Ford's operations in Europe will reverse recent losses and be "profitable" in 1996, "1996 will he a good year for the com-

He said US sales in 1996 will rise to about 15.3 million, compared with an estimated 15 million in 1995. He was optimistic about the US economy. predicting "modest, sustain-able" growth through the year, with low inflation and no significant chance of a recession.

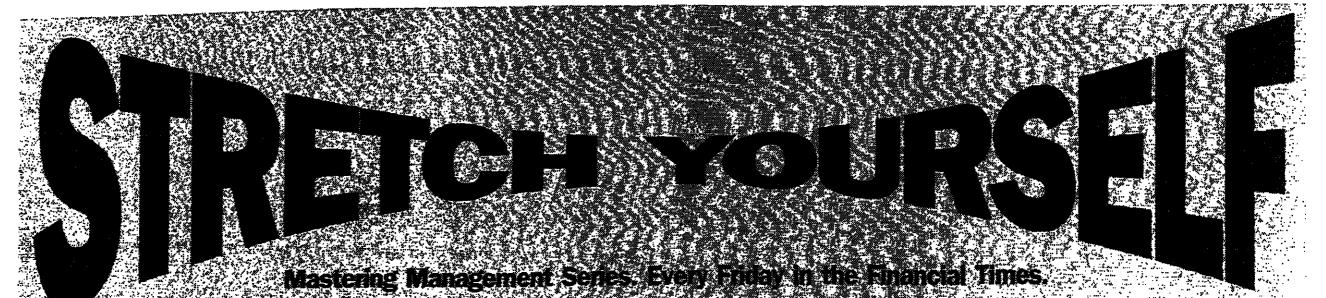


Optimistic: Alex Trotman,

No FT, no comment.

Mastering Management is a 20 week course that comes in a series of 16 page. weekly supplements free with the Financial Times every Friday until March 22.

1996. Written by academics from three of the world's leading business schools, it provides a valuable resource for those considering further business qualifications and practical guidance for everyone involved in business management. So to extend your management skills, buy the FT every Friday.



THE INVESTMENT COLUMN Edited by TOM STEVENSON

Retail prospects look promising

After a tough 1995 on the high street the way. GUS is still a lumbering giant when retailers were hit by a combinabut has the added stimulus of a new tion of unseasonable weather, fragile demand and tax cuts that failed to already helped David Jones rejuvenate materialise, the prospects for 1996 look more promising. It could be a good year to invest in stores groups for a number of reasons.

Consumer spending should receive a boost from lower interest rates and tax cuts, which will increase disposable is Storehouse, the BHs and Motherincomes. Then there is the £7bn flood care retailer which has improved marof accumulated interest that will pour gins and is now looking to add stores. out of Tessas due to mature over the next few months. Although the original capital from Tessas can be reinvested, much of the interest is expected to find its way into the stores.

But retail analysts such as John Richards at NatWest Securities warn against expecting retailers to cash in on a mini-retail boom. Given the over-capacity on the high street, particularly in fashion, footwear and DIY, competition will remain fierce and margins tight.

It is also likely to be tougher to make money on the stock market in 1996 that it was last year when the FTSE rose by 20 per cent. Predictions for this year are for around 10 per cent growth. Investors need to be highly selective when making their choices for the year and as usual it is not so much a question of picking the sector as picking the stock

In spite of the tough conditions last year, a number of retailers turned in spectacular performances with Next, Burton, Dixons and Argos leading the way. With the good news already in the price of most of these stocks, investors may have to look elsewhere for the best

At the lowest end of the risk-reward equation, larger stocks such as Marks & Spencer and Great Universal Stores should do well though are unlikely to set any pulses racing. M&S shares underperformed the market last year - with a rise of just 13 per cent - but in a competitive market will always lead

chairman in Lord Wolfson, who has Next.

This appointment may also add further sparks to Next shares which are likely to be buoyed by speculation. about a GUS-Next merger.

Also tipped for strong gains this year But to really maximise potential gains, investors who are prepared to take a risk need to identify those stocks

that have underperformed but have the

Value of retail sales

% change Sept - Nov '95 v same geriod '94

UK retail sales % change over 12 months

health warning attached. House of year's problems behind it. Fraser shares have been dogged by the stock overhangs caused by the hot sum-mer and mild autumn. Management has introduced better controls which should improve performance.

At Sears, Liam Strong is now taking more radical action to prune the group's disparate array of brands.

Another set of possibilities rest on any recovery in Britain's moribund housing market. Wickes, the DIY retailer is due for a re-rating after the sale of its building materials business.

Total new shopping developments

millions of square feet

potential to turn the corner. Both MFI also stands to gain from any signs of House of Fraser and Sears fall into this life in housing sales. Those to avoid incategory although they come with a clude WH Smith, which has still to put last

Bridon warns it's on the ropes

Profits for the year to December just finished will now come in slightly under 1994's £4.8m before exceptionals, well

Price cutting by two main competitors in the US during the final quarter of the year forced Bridon to follow suit. Birkmyre, a non-core Australian textiles subsidiary continued to make losses. A major bridge contract was delayed and some de-

It is all a far cry the new beginning which the company heralded in 1993 after Mr Petersen was brought in to revitalise a heavily loss-making business. "We know what we have to do. We know how to do

All is not gloom, however, although in-

What is most alarming about yesterday's profits warning from Bridon, the wire and wire-rope producer, is the speed with which last August's bullish trading state-ment has been turned on its head. The fall in the shares from 119p to 104.5p confirmed the market's annoyance at stumping up £21.2m in a two-for-seven rights ie last summer at 135p.

down on forecasts of £7m to £8m.

liveries were deferred into the current year.

it. We will do it", trumpeted a glossy brochure outlining Bridon's plans.

vestors would be right to treat with scepticism the company's claim that it is about to reap the benefits of an investment program, new production methods and the integration of Schalkeseil, the German heavy rope maker whose acquisition was funded by last year's cash call.

On forecast profits of £4.5m, the shares now stand on a p/e ratio in the high teens. A promised dividend of 4.4p provides some yield support, but the shares have a credibility gap to bridge. Unexciting.

Simon Pincombe CITY DIARY

Sony goes to Soho with £250,000 in a suitcase

Here is one for you to ponder. What was Chris Dearing, head of Sony Entertainment UK doing wandering round Soho just before before Christmas with a suitcase full of £50 notes? For a moment it looked like a case for Inspector Knacker of the Yard. The suitcase contained £250,000 - hardly petty cash - and the colourful London district is not noted for its reputation as a banking centre.

It turns out (sadly) to be nothing more sinister than a routine payment to a trade creditor. Mr Dearing was visiting the Noel Street lair of Simons Palmer Denton Clemmow & Johnson, the creative creatures behind those surreal advertisements for Sony's play station. The ad people were due a performance bonus.

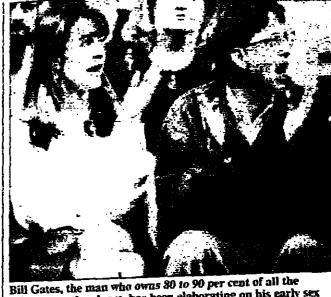
Apparently Simons Palmer etc were prepared to forgo part of their standard agency fee in return for a performancerelated lump sum. Once the sales of play station sales hit pre-determined targets the bonus kicked in - just in time for Christmas. None of which explains why Mr Dearing chose to pay the fee in person and in

Well it's a good feeling to run around Soho with quarter of a million about your person.

Day forty of the Forte bid ('fraid so) and it falls to Keith Hamill. Forte's fortysomething finance director to brief the City on the case for the defence. Mr Hamill began reciting from the cover of the defence document, "For hotels, for profit, for quality, for growth and for shareholder value.

"I would have liked to put four quid at the bottom." he added "But the advisers wouldn't let me."

Denizens of Dulwich, the leafy London suburb (well in summer, anyway), report frenzied engineering activity over the Christmas break. BT squads arrived in force to probe and test and no expense was spared to rectify



software on the planet, has been elaborating on his early sex life (before he discovered everlasting happiness with his wife. above). Before you get too excited, we are talking about a long-distance affair - albeit one that allowed the Microsoft

boss to sow his wild(ish) chips.

"We spent a lot of time together on e-mail." he admits in

"we spent a lot of time together on e-mail." he admits in

next month's Esquire magazine. "And we figured out a way we

next month's Esquire magazine. "And we figured out a way we could sort of go to the movies together. We'd find a film that was playing at about the same time in both our cities We'd drive to our respective theatres, chatting on our cellular phones. We'd watch the movie, and on the way home we'd use our ceilular phones again to discuss the show." he adds. "In future this sort of virtual dating will be better because the movie watching could be combined with a video conference." And who said romance was dead?

what must have been a major fault. Oddly enough. Dulwich is where Sir Iain Vallance, the BT chairman lives, prompting one observer to wonder whether the boss's free Christmas Day phone call was in

jeopardy.
Doubtless this report will prove heartening for the good citizens of Surrey. That is where Sir Peter Bonfield, the new BT chief executive, lives.

Incensed at what he says is 'inaccurate and misleading" evidence presented to the Nolan Committee on standards in public life, Mark Boleat, director general of the Association of British Insurers, has taken the housing trust he used to chair to task. Circle 33 was the victim of a £2m repairs fraud in 1993 and its l'evidence to Nolan claims Mr Boleat had "accepted responsibility". "Each of the statements about me is inaccurate." storms Mr Boleat. "I did not accept responsibility."

The National Lottery can now be said to have invaded all walks of life. Even Britain's senior accountants are starting to play. After months of lighting a rearguard action, one abacus artist last week finally bowed to the inevitable. Grudgingly filling in the ticket, he warned his family that the chances of winning were minimal – and even if they did win the begging letters would make life unbeatable.

Saturday night round the TV and not one single number right, "Well we didn't win," pipes up one of the kids. "Do we start writing the begging letters now?"

BAT affiliate faces £192m fine threat

TOM STEVENSON City Editor

An Indian associate of British American Tobacco faces the elimination of its entire net worth if the Delhi government enforces a 7.99bn rupee (£192m) fine on the company for alleged tax evasion.

ITC, which is 32 per cent owned by BAT is accused of failing to pay more than £150m of tax. If the penalty is enforced the last year failed to have an out-

row the funds to pay it, possibly from BAT itself. Shares in the UK holding company shrugged off the threat yesterday, closing just 1p lower at 564p; analysts doubted whether ITC would be forced to pay the whole fine. The company, which denies wrong-

doing, said it would appeal. The tax evasion charge is the latest hitch in the relationship between ITC and BAT, which

company may be forced to bor- sider appointed to the Indian company's chair. Its views were overruled by a group of institutions backing the deputy chairman, Yogi Deveshwar.

One source close to the company said, however, that the appointment of Mr Deveshwar to the top job might have been a blessing: "Given his connections in Delhi, we will not be surprised if ITC manages to come out of the whole affair with little lost, if at all."

time in as many days that BAT's Asian operations have caused controversy. Yesterday the company denied that it had gathered a group of senior executives to target China and other emerging markets. The company said that executives meeting in Hong Kong would be discussing BAT's new regional structure.

The ITC affair is the second

Attention has focused on BAT's interests in China and other developing markets be-

cause of the gap between the slowly declining tobacco markets of the West and the enormous growth potential in other markets that have only recently opened to foreign companies.

China is understood to have 450 million smokers, smoking 1,700 billion eigarettes a year of which foreign companies have a 4 per cent share. Sales in China are thought to have contributed between £200m and £300m to BAT's profits last year.

Take a car and five to France for £10 with INDEPENDENT and P&O

If, after the season of revels, you want to recuperate with a spot of French leave, you'll find it hard to beat our bargain break offer - a day trip to France with a

car plus five passengers for just £10. We have teamed up with P&O European Ferries to offer readers of The Independent a range of sailings departing from either Dover or Portsmouth which may be taken until April 2, 1996.

The Dover destination is Calais and the Portsmouth sailings will arrive at Cherbourg and Le Havre. Both towns are ideal for shopping, sight-seeing and gourmet eating and would make excellent bases for a short stay.

Day trip departures from Sunday to Fridays, until 15 February, 1996, cost £10 for a car and up to five passengers. Each extra passenger costs £1 and foot passengers also pay just £1.

Day trip departures from Portsmouth on Friday nights and Dover on Saturdays cost £20 for a car and up to five passengers. The cost of extra passengers and foot

passengers remains unchanged.

Sailings from 16 February up till 2nd April, 1996, are £10 per car and £1 per passenger or £20 per car and £1 per pas-senger for Saturday sailings from Dover or Friday night sailings from Portsmouth. If you prefer to make an overnight stay

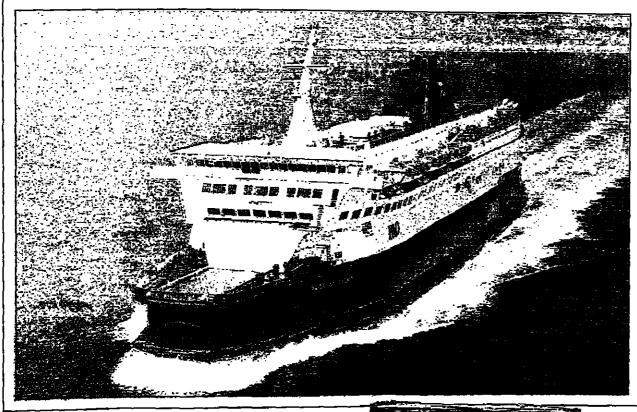
in France, the cost of a 60-hour excursion is £39 for a car and up to five passengers. Extra passengers pay £4 each. Friday night departures from Portsmouth and Saturday departures from Dover are subject to a £10 surcharge. These prices do not include accommodation.

To qualify for these bargain prices you must collect four differently numbered tokens from the six we are publishing this week. Today we are publishing token four and we will give full details of how to take advantage of this offer later this week.

Full terms and conditions of this daytrip offer will appear on the P&O European ferries Booking Request Form which will appear later this week. The offers are subject to availability for tickets within the The Independent's readers allocation. A day return is defined as follows: Dover/Calais route, return departure must be before midnight on the day of departure. From Portsmouth, return departure must be within 24 hours of leaving the UK.

European Ferries





Storm claims could reach £1bn •

Storm damage throughout Scotland and the North-east of England in the past few days could lead to a flood of claims of up to £1bn against insurance companies, a leading firm of loss

adjusters claimed yesterday. The Balcombe Group, an insurance claims specialist, said it had been inundated by calls. from large firms and households facing losses so far estimated at more than £500m.

The chief executive, Nick Balcombe, said: "We believe these estimates are on the conservative side. I have spent the last two days in Scotland and we were dealing with an unprece-dented number of cases.

Work in Scotland resumed a day after England, so the true scale of any damage. especially to commercial premises, will not be known for some time. I would not be surprised if it turns out to be the most expensive natural disaster in the UK."

Previous expensive claims against insurance companies range between £1.5bn from the October 1987 storms, to £195m after the February 1991 floods. The Association of British

Insurers, the industry's trade body, said it was too soon to form a detailed picture of the extent of this year's claims. A more exact idea would probably emerge in a month's time. However, insurers were quick to play down the Balcombe

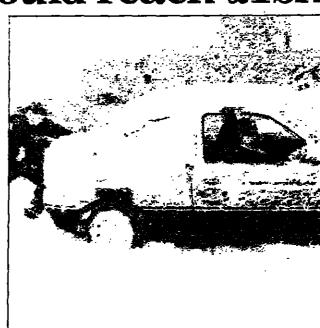
Group's claims.

Commercial Union said: "We feel the damage will be sub-stantially less than £500m. So far we have had 1,500 claims admitted, which really is not above the average.
"We did wonder whether it

would be necessary to send special teams up to Scotland. but the information from our Scottish branches was that it was not necessary. A Royal Insurance spokes-

man added: "We did open up on New Year's Day because we thought there would be a lot of people with problems. But the situation is unlikely to be as serious as past events, mainly because the damage has been localised mainly to Scotland, the North-east and the East Coast."

Paul Locke, marketing services manager at Eagle Star, said: "This is the sort of thing that we would have bargained for. This kind of event is not out



Northern exposure: Insurers are challenging claims that damage this year will rank alongside that of 1987's storms

on household insurance rates."

Mr Balcombe added: "We have been in this market for five we are generally pretty close."

of the ordinary and we would generations, covering all sorts not expect it to have an affect of damage claims in recent years. I would not say that we

Thorn EMI buys **US** rental outlets

DAVID HELLIER

Thorn EMI, the music publisher, retail and rentals company. yesterday completed the acqui-sition of two Rent-A-Center franchise operations in the US.

Thorn Americas, the company's rental-purchase American subsidiary based in Wichita. Kansas, bought the stock of Ad-vantage Companies Inc and Tidewater Rental Corporation for a total cash consideration of £65.7m.

Thorn Americas claims to be the largest rental-purchase operation in the US. Rentalpurchase involves consumers renting goods initially. After a period the ownership reverts to the consumer.

Thorn started getting involved in rental-puchase when it acquired some of the Rent-A-Center stores in 1987. The stores rent out household goods, furniture, videos and

The main core of the business company-owned, although

there are also a proportion of franchised outlets.
Following these latest trans-

actions Thorn now has 1.232 Rent-A-Center stores, of which 1,173 are company-owned and 59 franchised. The latest deals are part of a

continuing development of Thorn's rentals business, which will at some point this year become a separately quoted com-pany if Sir Colin. Southgate's plans to demerge the whole group come off. Under the plan, Thorn EMI will become two quoted companies; one mainly involved in the rentals business and the other essentially a music retailer and publisher under

the EMI and HMV names. The company said yesterday that the latest US transactions would have taken place regardless of the company's plan to demerge.

A spokesman said: "It is expected that the board will be in a position to reach and armounce a decision [on the demerger] in the early part of this year.

IN BRIEF

Locker hits back at bid criticism

Thomas Locker, the engineering group involved in a £7.5m bid for the industrial drums maker Pentre, hit back at criticism from its largest shareholder that the deal is over-priced. John Carr, who owns 22 per cent of Locker and has been denied a seat on the board, was yesterday lobbying important shareholders ahead of an extraordinary meeting next Wednesday. He also objects to plans to enfranchise Locker's A shares.

Glaxo in property deal

Clark Nickolls & Coombs, the Uxbridge-based property investment and management group, has exchanged contracts with Glaso for the acquisition of one of the drugs giant's properties in Twickenham, London. Glaxo is taking £1.1m in cash and 5.56 million shares in Clarke, giving it just over 3 per cent of the property busi-

Jacobs takes over Sally ferry route

Jacobs Holdings, through its shipping subsidiary Dart Line, has taken over operation of the Dartford to Vlissingen freight ferry route from Sally Line. The deal establishes a 50-50 pooling agreement on the route with Regie voor Maritiem Transport, the Belcian state shipping company.

Pilkington wins £13m airport order

Pilkington has won a £13.5m order to supply \$1,000 square metres of glass for the passenger terminal at the new airport being built at Chep Lap Kok in Hong Kong. The order is thought to be the world's largest for architectural glass and will be supplied by the group's German subsidiary, Flachglas.



market report/shares

DATA BANK FT-SE 100

3715.6+27.7 FT-SE 250 4053.9+17.0 FT-SE 350

1844.0+<u>12.</u>4 SEAQ VOLUME 734.9m shares,

31,788 bargains Gilts Index 95.28 -0.24

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



As shares surged to another peak, with the FT-SE100 index topping 3,700 points for the first time the result of the first time the result of t first time, the stock market was intrigued by talk that the long-

suspected insurance take over bid was about to appear. Refuge, the life and pensions group, emerged as the most likely candidate with Britannic

also in the frame. hit have circulated for months could have a powerful influ-The rumours of an insurance with the giants of the industry, such as Legal & General and Royal Insurance, attracting

much of the attention. Talk of raids from the Continent have often mesmetised the market. And National Westminster Bank's recently inherited cash pile has added to the speculation. NatWest is seen in many quarters as a possible bidder for L&G, lured by

Refuge is one of the smaller quoted groups, valued at around £750m. Its largest shareholder is Britannic with 10.2 per cent. It is known to be in talks with the Department of Trade & Industry over its socalled "orphan" funds. A successful outcome of these talks ence on shareholder funds, and probably prompt sharp div-

idend increases. In modest trading Refuge shares rose 19p to 474p; Bri-tannic, valued at £1.5bn, gained 16p to 799p. ABN Amro Hoare Govett believe the shares are worth £10.

The excitement spread to other insurers with L&G up 6p to 678p; General Accident rose 17p to 659p; Prudential Cor-

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MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN Stock market reporter

The market surged in early trading, inspired by New York's overnight performance. Then shares milled around waiting in hopeful anticipation of another upbeat Wall Street display. As soon as evidence of continuing US bullishness was forthcoming there was little doubt shares would end the

doubt shares would end the session at a record high.
In the event the FT-SE 100 index closed 27.7 points higher at 3.715.6 after touching 3.719.8. Although the holiday continued to reduce attendance trading was brisk with indance trading was brisk with in-stitutions prepared to take on

of the year at 45 million, suggested an-other regional electricity company had sold at least part of

rose 1.5p to 201p. Lloyds TSB was another heavily traded with more former TSB shareholders switching to Barclays, up 20p at 778p. Lloyds rose 6p to 325p. HSBC gamed 20p to 1,027.5p. It has been chosen as the underlying stock for a new quoted instrument, Hypers. Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull is behind this latest brainwave, an intriguing play on the dividend. The SGST scheme

its shareholding. The price

Lengthy wait for insurance bid could soon be over Vodatone, off 5p at 221p, was busily traded following disappointment with its Christmas sales. In contrast, Northern Foods, said to be pleased with Christmas trading, gained 3p to 179p. Talk persists it is near to selling Fox's Biscuits.

Savoy Hotel was caught in the backlash of the Forte-Granada confrontation. Forte's decision to hand its Savoy stake to its shareholders was seen as reducing the chance of a bidder appearing, sending the shares tumbling 108p to 940p. Ladbroke re-

mained firm, up 2p at 158p. Insurance brokers Sedgwick and Willis Corroon edged forward on continuing speculation of a strike. Lloyd Thompson

of a strike. Lloyd Thompson was back in the frame, up 13p to 183p, a two day gain of 16p. Elsewhere Lloyds Chemists attracted renewed speculative attention, gaining 10p to 270p. ICI jumped 32p to 797p as James Capel, sellers for the

past three years, moved its recommendation to hold.

United Utilities, the North West Water/Norweb combination, continued to sink, off another 15p at 594p. Bridon, down 14.5p at 104.5p, was the day's profit warning casualty; Amstrad continued to reflect the departure of its chief ex-

ecutive, off 7.5p to 189.5p. Builders were firm on continuing hopes that the housing market could start to improve. Barratt Developments rose

11p to 258p. Zergo, the anti computer hacking group, gained another 50p to 300p and Clarke Nickolls & Coombs, the prop-erty group, firmed to 8p. Fol-lowing Tuesday's arrival of Richard Upton and Andrew Nedham with almost 30 per cent. CNC has acquired a property in Twickenham, southwest London, for cash

☐ There is talk in the holiday business that Airtours is near to forging a link with Richard Branson's Virgin group. The word is that they are planning joint holiday deals, probably to the US and perhaps Australia and South Africa.

TAKING STOCK

At a time of over-capacity, when many operators have cut back, a Virgin deal could offer Airtours new scope for growth. The shares gained 10p to 371p.

☐ Bula Resources sticks miserably at 2.25p although its ventures in the former Soviet Union appear to be making headway. Its Libyan exploration – funded by Occidental Petroleum - is also thought capable of producing rewards. The company bas recently attracted two big supporters, Capital International and Morgan Grenfell, each with

and shares, giving Glaxo Trustees a 3.2 per cent stake. offers a 7.4 per cent yield compared with HSBC's his-7.6 per cent. some chunky lines of stock. the £36bn the insurance group poration added 10p to 434p (a Heavy trading in National has under management. two day gain of 19p) and Royal toric 3.4 per cent. The hovering presence of predatory outsiders could also two day gain 10p to 392p. Grid, with Seaq putting volume Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. SHARE PRICE DATA Other details: sr Ex rights x Ex-dividend a Ex-all a Unlisted Securities Market s Suspended pp Partly Paid pm Nil Paid Shares.

Source: Firster. THE INDEPENDENT INDEX BANKS, MERCHANT The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Scaq. Simply dia 8891 123 335, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 0891 1233 followed by one of the two-digit codes below. OIL, INTEGRATED FT-SE 100 - Real-time 00 Sterling Rates 04
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Flyer halts but Gales primed

RICHARD EDMONDSON

8-1 for the King George VI but we were full of hope going Chase by Ladbrokes on Thesday, Dublin Flyer was cut from the race altogether yesterday. The curse of the privatised utilities seems to have snared even the "Magic Sign" and the bookmakers' phone lines seem to be news that Merry Gale, Ireas frozen as Tim Forster's land's best staying chaser, is now Downton gallops.

There is nothing wrong with the Captain's gelding. He has just found it more difficult than others of his trade to keep the horses going in the snap. Dublin Flyer becomes Forster's second fancied horse to be removed from the King George, following the injury to Martha's Son.

"He won't run on Saturday," the 10-year-old's owner, John Summer, said yesterday. "Captain Forster hasn't been able to do enough work with him to get him ready. Tim has had even worse weather than us and we had it pretty bad. We thought there was no point in running him if he wasn't ready so we'll wait for another day. That could be in the John Bull Chase at Wincanton a week tomorrow.

"I have already won the King the flight has been reached George with Royal Marshall II. however. "Everything seems to but that doesn't make this any easier to take. You can never be Having been cut from 10-1 to confident in a steeplechase, when it was switched to Sandown as that would not have suited him so well."

> Another element of the race has been saved following the to return to Britain. Jim Dreaper's gelding collected little more than duty frees and Big Ben-in-a-snowstorm trinkets on his aborted trip to the orginal Boxing Day date, and connections were doubting the wisdom of a return journey costing in the region of £8,000

in transport.

ed the lowest number of entries

for the race since the entry date

was put back for the 1992 event.

be in order now," Dreaper said yesterday. "A number of other horses, mainly broodmares, have appeared, which will bring down the cost of transporting

them to England. The horse is fine. We missed a couple of days when we were at Kempton over Christmas and with the weather we missed about a week. But we haven't taken any chances and the thaw has helped."

The meteorologists can confidently predict Gales at the weekend as Josh Gifford's Sun Alliance Chase winner, Brief Gale, was also declared a runner yesterday. "Ideally we would not have been looking to run her in a race like the King George first time out, but she is well and will run." the train-

sponding total of 620 published

a year ago for the 1996 Derby.

Although the number was 10

there are not many races for he just worked a bit lazily. He's good horses around. A lick of gloss may also be re-

moved from another of Esher's attractive races, the Tolworth Hurdle, following the announcement that See More Indians could miss the race. Unbeaten in three races this season, he had been scheduled to test the mettle of horses from the Flat such as River North. Mack The Knife and Right Win, until a rather lackiustre

lops yesterday morning.
"He's not a definite runner because he didn't work as well as expected this morning," the trainer reported. "He didn't go quite as well as before the times he's won this season. We've taken a blood test from One-winning River North, who him and we'll see how that is in

managing director of United

Racecourses, said: "It's a very

nice pool of horses to work with

and we are now looking at the

first £1 million Vodafone Der-

target for next year.

Entries for the 1997 Derby show a drop

er said. "Time is ticking by and the morning and it might be that a staying horse that will be better over a trip and if it's gone good to soft I'm not sure we'd want to go anyway.

"This horse is a potential three-mile chaser and not a champion hurdler. We know how good he is and we don't have to prove anything against these horses off the Flat. He's the best horse I've had so far and we're looking forward to the Sun Alliance Novices' Hurdle. display on Paul Nicholls's gal- But he's been bought as a threemile chaser and he'll go novice chasing next year whatever happens at Cheltenham."

The Tolworth should nevertheless be a contest of some excitement as it features the hurdling debut of the Group

make any international owner

aware that if they are not in the

race at the moment, they will

have the chance to make an en-

year-old entry stage."

Gifford: Time is ticking by the advantage of Richard Dunwoody at the control panel. He is from the Celtic Swing stable of Lady Herries, who earli-

er last year invited the nation's press round to Angmering Park to view the Flat season's great hope. On Saturday, her River North faces Mack The Knife, whose trainers would only have the Fourth Estate on their premises if they fancied a spot

of target practice.

Dick Hern, who prepared Mack The Knife on the Flat, and the horse's current trainer, Martin Pipe, are not men noted for posting bulletins on notice boards or taking out page ads in the trade newspapers to inform about their horses. Perhans Mack The Knife will tell us all we need to know this

3.30 Copper Bright (nb)

HYPERION 1.00 Never So Rite 1.30 Rainbow Top 2.00 Be My Bird 2.30 Distant Dynasty 3.00 Total Rach

McCloy wins board seat

Matthew McCloy, the belea- sentatives. Only afterwards did guered chairman of the British he offer an apology.

Horseracing Board's Industry Despite continued disquiet Horseracing Board's Industry Committee, yesterday won a seat on the board itself for a four-year term. Currently a coopted member, he will replace Michael Damell from June as the Industry member and di-

His candidacy was agreed by members of the Industry Committee despite the controversy that has surrounded his trip to New York for the Breeders' Cup when he was held in police custody.

McCloy was the only nomi-nee by yesterday's deadline and a proposal to extend the time allowed for nominations was rejected by a significant majority. In October, en route to New York, McCloy was handcuffed on the plane and detained for 48 hours. He pleaded guilty to the minor offence of disorder-

ly conduct and, by not contest-

ing it, secured his release and a speedy return to Britain. McCloy was asked to explain his conduct at the recent Industry Committee Forum but chose to ignore questions from

from some areas of the industry, he has ridden the storm. Both the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association representative, Gerald Leigh, and the National Trainers Federation's Ian Balding attended yesterday's

The Industry Committee executive, Annie Dodd, said: There had been talk of extending the deadline and it was Matthew who brought it up before the committee today. But the level of support was minimal and most felt it was best all round if we stuck to what we

said we would do. "Matthew offered to tell anybody on the committee who was interested what happened in New York. Maybe a couple took up the offer privately, but there was nothing expected of him beyond that.

"This is the committee telling the world of its confidence in Matthew McCloy representing their views. It should put an end to the whole discussion so that we can get down to some proptrainers and breeders repreer work."

2.00 STITCH IN TIME CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) £4,500 added 3YO 1/16 (AW)

2.30 TOO MANY COOKS HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,500 added 6f (AW)

10 001535- FORT WARK (20, 10) R M Rower 58 9 ______ D Biges 4 ____ 10 declared -_____ BETTING: 7-2 Speech Classic, 4-1 Distant Dynasty, 5-1 Fort Knox, 6-1 Random, 13-2 Miles, 8-1 Warm Harriad, 10-1 Meetingue Danson, 12-1

3.00 MANY HANDS LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,700 added 1m 2f (AW)

RETURA: 9-4 Lundkurd, 7-2 Total Ruch, 4-1 Avesages Power, 5-1 Tadal-

3.30 BRD IN THE HAND HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,450 added 3YO 7f (AW)

5 PO-3333 INFERMENT (20) Capt J Wilson 6 11.2 ____ R Johnson (3) 6 S4220-3 MONTHWY (95) P Montesth 7 11.2 _____ A Dobbin 7 04-1072 GLD ALE (20) J Curts 6 11.2 _____ J. O'Hom 8 0000-05 PYERMER FIRST (42) Heigher 7 11.2 _____ B Storey - 8 declared -

— 5 deciared — BETERG: 5-4 Lechnograin, 3-1 Civine, 9-2 Devilty, Montrare, 18-1 Mino-posales, Old Me, 25-1 others

2.10 GEORGE MULCASTER MEMORIAL HAND-ICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500 2m 5f

| CAP CHASE (CLASS II) 2-0,000 and an an an analysis of the second secon

2.40 CROSSHILL HOTEL NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 3m 3f

1 5442(3) BISSH GENT (439 P Beaumont 10 11 7 R Supple 2 P54-332 ALY DALEY (259 BBF) I H Johnson 8 11 0 Blyton 3 0406-U0 BILSY BOY (46) D Lamb 9 11 0 A Minimums (7) 4 DP55-P3 BISSHER HOCKERS (259 Ms V Ward 10 11 0 D Prairer (3) 5 AGU/FP BIR OPTRISSING (374) F Marting 9 11 0 A Dobbin

-5 declared - 5 de

3.10 SOCIAL CLUB MARES MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS F) (DIV II) £2,850 2m 5f 110yds

U CRAINSINS AVE (28) 5 Mothered 8 11 4 ____ R Gandity
2-3 CUMERINA BRAPSOOT (50) (87) M H Easteby 6 11 4 ____ L Vyer
50 DAVWACTING (43) D Mother 6 11 4 ____ L Vyer
00- GILDORANS LASS (285) I Upson 5 11 4 _____ Mr T Byene
0PROSO MENDOMERINA (40) W Read 6 11 4 _____ I Read
08-5020 MILLES BRANCE (48) F Mursgh 5 11 4 _____ A Debbis
MILLES BRANCE (48) F Mursgh 5 11 4 _____ J Barles

0000 RINE PADOY CER & Robwell 7 11 4 00- VICKNEEPEO CERT F Coon 7 11 4 --- 10 declared --

2 084224 SPEEDY CLASSIC (17) (CD) M Heaton-Elis 7 9 10

000220- MILOS (17) (C) (C) T 1 Naughon 5 9 9 ... 340004- PHAESOV (201) (CD) P Hadem 7 9 5 ... 106220- DNIFFSH (112) (D) 8 L Morre 5 9 2 245065- RNNDON (40) (G) C JRNE 5 9 0

1 214164- RIVAL BID (17) (CD) Mrs N Macaday 8 9 6.

01251- DOMETTES (84) (C) R Hannon 89...

606054- BICHTEOUS GENET (21) X McAustre 8 8 ...

Another Pipe burst after the freeze-up

Martin Pipe, who won three of the five races at the first meeting on turf since the freeze ended at Exeter on Monday, yesterday recorded a 31-1 double on the first completed meet-ing on grass at Lingfield with Valiant Toski and Terao.

He said later that the bad weather had hit him rather than his horses. "I came off my bicycle on the ice the other day, he said after Terao's win had giv-

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Fixturessecretary (Nottingham 3.20) (Nottingham 2.50)

en his stable five wins out of the first 10 jump races run this year. "The secret of why our horses are so fit is the woodchip gallop which we put down ourselves some years ago. It's turned out a few winners. We can work even if we have to box the horses up and drive them down to it.

The Charlie Brooks-trained Garolo and Graham Bradley rave Britain a first overseas suc cess of 1996 in the Prix Jacques Pinel de Grandchamp at

RESULTS

12.50: 1 KINGDOM OF SHADES (P Carberty) evers far, 2. Mirrosmald 10-1: 3. Ming's Gold 14-1, 16 ran, 34-, 15. (A Turnel, Wen-tage). Tolke £1.70, £1.20, £7.20, £2.40. DC £22.70. CSF: £12.88. Trio: £39.00. NR:

1.20: 1. ARR SHOT (A Magure) 5-2 fav. 2. No Pain No Gain 4-1; 3. River Lossie 8-1. 10 ran. Ni. 12. (D Nicholson, Temple Guring, Toter ; 3-60; 1.70, 5.1.20, 5.1.90. DF: £8.00, CSF: £12.47. Tric: £27.90. 1.50: 1. VALIANT TOSKI (D Brdgwater) 3 1: 2. Utros 10-1: 3. Latin Lauder 2-1 fav. 11 ran. 1, 15. (M Pipe, Wellington). Tota: £3.60: £1.60. £2.90, £1.30. DF: £24.10. CSF: £31.47. Trio: £19.40.

2.20: 1. TERAO (i) Bridgesteri 7-1; 2. Mad Thyme 14-1; 3. Change The Act 7-1. 9 can. 7-2; it tavs Districtive (public up). Tudor Fa-ble (oxiled up). 3-2; 10. (M Ppc, Wellington). Tota: F7.50: £2.00, £3.60, £1.70. DF: £71.20. CSF: £83.36. Treast: £641.18. Tho: £53.20. 2.50: 1. BLAZON OF TROY (G Tormer) 12-

1: 2. Jenseyh 12-1; 3. Meusteff 100-30. 9 ran. 9-4 tav Sports View 15th). Nr. 8. (Thomson Jones, Upper Lambourn: Trade 150 10: 22-60, 12-30, 52-50. DF: 164-30. CSF: £122.70. Tneast: £531.15. Tno: 168-70. 3.20: 1. ST MELLION FAIRWAY (

Maguret 1.4 fa; 2. Highland Jack 9.1; 3. Testrader 33:1. 9 ran. 145, 5. ID Nicholson, Temple Gunng). Teter £1.60: £1.00, £1.00, £3.20. DF: £4.00. CSF: £3.46. Tro: £4.20. 3.50: 1. TICKERTY'S GIFT (M Amenter) 7-

2; 2. Envopaldeada 7-4 tsv; 3. Time Enough 5-1. 7 ran, Dst, 12 (G L Moore, Epsoml. Tote: £4.50; £2.30, £1.90. Dr £4.70. CSF: £9.78. Treast: £26.46. NR: agamunch. ickpot: £18,135.30. iscapot: £43.20. Quadpot: £25.10. isca 6: £71.27. Place 5: £45.14.

WOLVERHAMPTON

1.05: 1. SUPER ROCKY (H Bastima 1 fav: 2. Chadwell Hall 11-2; 3. Feet stone Lane 13-2. 10 ran. Nk. hd. (R Bastman, Wetnerbyl, Tote: £2,90; £1,20, £2,60, £2,50, DF: £6,10, CSF: £13,25. Incast: £54.10. The: £12.50.

1.35: 1. DOCTOR BRAVIOUS (M Fenton) 7-2: 2. Reploy 9-2: 3. Sconloris 9-1: 10 ran, 11-4 fav Muster Aspecto (4tm. 2: 3. (M Bell, Newmarkst), Totar: £5.30; £1.30, £2.30, £2.90, DF: £28.10, CSF: £20.27, That £33.10.

2.05: 1. MAPLE BAY (PRoperts) 13-2; 2. Beaumen 7-1; 3. Place Ridge Lad 13-2. 11 res. 7-4 fav Almuhtaram (4ff), 7; 174. (A Bailey, Tappertey). Tota: £8.10: £2.00. £3.70. £3.00. DF. £28.90. CSP: £49.65. Telcast: £283.98, Tree: £47.50. 2.35; 1. LEAR DANCER (A Corn.) 14-1; 2. High Patriarch 12-1; 3. Shaishy 100-30. 10 ran. 7-4 fav. Noyan (40), Hd, 11. (Pat. Mighell, Newmorke). Tota: £9.90; £2.60, £3.50, £1.90. DF: £29.50. CSF: £155.34. Incest: £635.76. Inc: £43.80.

3.05: 1. ASHGORE (I Wester) 14-1: 2. High Premium 8-1: 3. Pengsamon 10-1: 9 ran, 4-1; 4.5% Salormate (Sth., Neuvest (Sth., Sector) 12-1: 14-16 (St., 174; M. Johnson, Michieham). Totas £14-60; £3-20; £1-30; £6-80; DF: £38-40; £1-31: 14-68. Thosat £1.085-64. This £113-10.

3.35: 1. MYSTIC TEMPO (R Cochanel 11-

4; 2. Marino Street 9.4 Lar, 3. Miss Pick-pocket 5-1, 10 ran, 3a, Vc. 10r J Scargil, Neumarket), Tote: £3.40; £1.40, £1.10, £2.00, DF: £8.30, CSF: £9.62, Trio: £4.60, 4.05: 1. CHEEKY CHAPPY IP Fessey: 6 4 for 2. The Institute Boy 8-1; 3. The Real Whitzberry 13-2. 9 ran. 4:, 3. ID Chapman, York, Yoter, £2.40, £2.50, £1.10, £2.40, DF: £10.00, CSF, £13.25. Theast £55.76. The £18.80. see & £422.64. Piace 5: £210.45.

NOTTINGHAM

12.50 Try Next Door L20 Take The Buckskin 2.20 Fox On The Run 2,50 General Tonic 3.20 Jackson Flint

1.50 PENNINE PRIDE (nap) 3.50 Clarification GOING: Hardle course — Good to Soft; Chase course — Good (Good to Soft in piaces).

Left-hand, oval course. Flat and galloping with easy turns.

Recocourse is tim easy of thy off B686 Colwick road. Notingham railway station (served by London St. Pancras) is 2m away. ADMISSION: Cash 512 (Juniors, 16-21 years, 58); Tantersalls 53; Silver Ring & Paddock 54. CAE PARK: free.

Next year's Derby has attract- per cent down on the corre-

A total of 554 horses – all at a cost of £250 – made yesterday's initial entry stage, a figure 10.6 fewer than the previous low of 564 since the entry system was revised, Edward Gillespie, the

M. LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: D Nicholson — 11 winners from 57 runners gives a success ratio of 19.3% and a loss to a 51 level stake of 528.79; Mrs M Revelley — 9 winners, 28 runners, 23.7%, -52.64; J FirstGerald — 9 winners, 50 runners, 18.7%, -518.42; O Bremman — 9 winners, 57 runners, 15.8%, +53.24.

B. LEADING JOCKETES: J Oubstrace — 13 wins, 55 rides, 23.6%, +58.93; G McCourt — 13 wins, 63 rides, 20.6%, +51.37; P Niven — 11 wins, 38 rides, 23.9%, +55.43; M Dwyer — 11 wins, 67 rides, 16.4%, -537.47.

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DATS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: Damas (1.20), Habasia. (2.50), Shallagamble (3.50) & St. Mellion Drive (3.50) have been sent 198 miles by M Pipe from Nicholsshyue, Devon.

		- Alterior	BC) DETME	
	[]	2.20	WEST BRIDGFORD NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) (DI added 3m 110yds Penalty Value £3,611	/ I) £4,500
	1	5/3451-	ALBERT BLAKE (222) (Mrs T R Kinsen) T Kinsen 9 11 12	M Ragional
ı	2	335-413	CROPREDY LAD (27) (D) (Richard Half) P Webber 9 11 12	G McCow
ı	3	17-4	QUITE A MARK (22) (W R J Bress) W Jerks 8 11 9	T Jeek
ı	4	6044-25	BALLYMEN'R (20) (Mrs Rosemary Kavanegh) S Mellor 7 11 5	N Nam
ı	5		BORO HELL (15) (Player Albon) R Albon 7 11 5	
ı	6		GARDIEN WALK () J Collect N Literation 8 11 5	أروباعالا الأسيا
ı	7			شهطنا البيب
ı	8	5/1235/	OCEAN LENDER (652) (Sir Peter Globings) Mrs D Harne 9 11 5	F Title
ı	9	26	PROCES HILL (20) (6F) (G D W Swee) K Basley 9 11 5	معفون لـــــــ
ı	10	P	ROKELINGH HOUSE (21) (M Aldren W Crag J Crag Chloredith) G Baiding 7	
ı			NJ-115-17-18-18-18-18-18-18-18-18-18-18-18-18-18-	B Feeboo (S
ı	ц	PYOLÓUS	SPA RELLY (21) (J A Picketing) J Protering 8 11.5	NI Shurral
ı			AMBER REALM (224) (Nes C.) Durn) R Buchler & 11 0	R
ı	13	265/570	MRRINAH (19) (Atom C Caddret) Spearing 8 11 0	يوويا لسن
1			_ 12 declared	

Ocean Leader was a fair staying hurdler when he last raced two seasons ago and is a pos-sibility but with the occosition matrity ex-coint-to-pointers, KBIG LUCIFER faces a relatively easy test compared to his first two starts over fences. King Lucifer won two of his four starts over hurdles lest season, culminating in a defect of a strong field at Ascot (2 1/2m) last January, and made a pleasing debut over fences when runner-up to stablements Hebridge at Wordester in November. He failed to handle the stiff fences and more experienced Span-ish Light at Haydock next time but has nothing file as much to do here and he will also be more suited by the longer trip. Pelcet's Helt was another to be let down by his jumping last time. An Insh point-to-point winner in 1994, Price's Hill made a promising return after miss-ing last season when going down narrowly to Beaurepier at Fortwell in November and is the one most likely to chase horse likely Livider with the 7th he sets from the first nursing ing last season when going down narrowly to Bea the one most likely to chase home King Luxifier with the 7to he gets from the front-running

	[L2.5(COLWICK CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,850 added 3m 110yds Penelty Value £2,575
	1	3300-02	PYRAMIS PRINCE (26) (J Whyte) J Whyte 6 12 0
	2	53-5466	THE MENDER (FR) (24) (G Edwards) G Edwards 9 12 0
	3	P015-3F	DEFENSE VALLEY (34) (A A King) A Jones 11 11 13S Certan
	4	1250-F4	TAMERICALE (85) (8F) (Mrs R Vaughan) N Twiston-Dawes 7 11 10
	5	F04-3P3	DOMENEE (15) (A / Hayes) K Balley 8 11 9T J Marphy
	6	30-P212	BARRYSEN (15) (C) (BF) (Mrs Mary Bristourie) W Bristourie 7 11 9R Messey
	۱, ř		BEE DEE BOY (33) (0) (Mrs E M R Ludios) P Clarks 8 11.8
	١à	SOCIO	OSMOSIS (756) (Nichael Mellosh) D Munay Smith 10 11 4
	ĭŏ	155004	KHAZARI (USA) (16) (D) (Ms A Burgor) R Brotherton 8 11 1
	īn	MUGS4	TRY NEXT DOOR (33) (M S Grillers) M Britain 9 10 13
	177	300,000	DANCING DANCER (35) (M. R Clarke) D Garaghty 7 10 5 Supple
1	1 75	MANNE.	FLY GUARD (RZ) (406) (T A Blackmore) N Bathage 9 20 2Martin Smith
	1.5	1340410	MESS PROPERVEL (22) (D) (Don Huzzeri) A Barrow 6 10 0
		437140	THE TITION CHOST (964) (R Come) S Contrap 7 10 0
	14	231017	INTERIOR CENTRAL DESCRIPTION OF STREET AND THE DESCRIPTION OF STREET AND STRE
	15	F45352	GONE ANKRY (20) (M D Hammond) M Hammond 7 10 0
-		5046/00	MY SISTER LUCY (35) (Alss X Whitehouse) Miss K Whitehouse 6 10 0
	17	OP-0506	TARO CARO (36) IG A Famooni R Woodhouse 5 10 0
			CELTIC ENGENALD (405) RAIS HI A Estey) R Estey 8 10 0
	19	00PP75	GAYTON RUN (241) (Hugh Bourn Developments Unit) S Campson 7 10 0
			40 designed

Minimum meight. 10st. True handisap weights: The Tibra Ghost Set 12th, Gone Awey Set 11th. My Sister Lucy Set 5th, Taru Card Set 5th, Celtic Emerald Set, 3th, Gayton Rut Set 6th. BETTING: 6-1 Dominie, 7-1 (Nuzzari, 15-2 Tamengale, 8-1 The Minimum, Toy Next Door, 10-1 Descing Dancer, Gone Away, 12-1 Barrybon, Pyramis Prince, 14-1 Dorring Valley, 20-1 others

ļ	1	_20	TRENT BRIDGE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3, 3m 110yds Penalty Value £3,485	,200 addec
	1		COOL RUNGER (38) (Gerard Mode) Nes 5 Nock 6 11 13	
	2	500-1P5	SECRET 980 (41) 60) (The Dixon Partners) R Alber 6 11 13	.Mr P Henley (5
- 1	3	332241	TAKE THE BUCKSKIN (48) (D) (David F Wisord T Thomson Jones 9 11 12	G McCour
1	4	0-1	MERCENA (44) (G Hubbard G Hubbard 6 11 8	K Gerado (3
1	5		QUEENFORD BELLE (30) Æsecutive Record Miss H Knight 6 11 8	
	6	34345-3	BALLYEA BOY (33) (Dens Barry) D Nicholson 6 11 6	A Hhadi
1	7	02	BAYMATIC (47) (G I Issue) Mrs Pignan 7 11 6	W Musika
	В	e/	BULLENS BAY (507) (Bullens Bay Perment & Shewood 7 11 6	Otherne
-	9		CHAIP BANK (48) (Mrs. J. Mould) N Truston-Davies 6 11 6	
	10	QP/	CAPITAIN (694) (S.C. Jones) A Jones 7 11 6	S Nation
- 1	11	040333	DANIOLS (FR) (64) (Anight Hands Partnership) M Pipe 5 11 6	وتوريزنانا أأس
1	12	2	DAVID'S WKY (37) (0) Lever) M Hammand 7 11.6	R Barps (7)
	13		NAUTICAL GEORGE (Mrs Exa Elis) J Upson 6 11 6	J Septide (9)
	14	0-2	SHALLOW RIVER (42) (Richard Colum) R Colum 5 11 6	A P McCo
	15		SPACEAGE GOLD (47) (Spaceage Plastics Limited) J Old 7 11 6	
	15		SUPREME SPERT (21) (F J Haggas) Mrs D Hame 7 11 6	
	17	_	THE MILIMASTER (McCletum Park Racing IV) J Uppen 5 11 6	
	18	063-	WESTERLY GALE (237) (R S Davies) N Hercerson 6 11 6	
	19		WOODFORD GALE (41) (Lady Lloyd Webber) N Hendesson 6 11 6	
i	20		ASHCHL UIDY (22) (Stephen Walles) T Well 5 11 1	
1	21		COLUMCILLE (28) (SF) (R Alner) R Alner 10 11 1	
-	-		- 21 declared -	
-	眶	TING: 8-1	Bullyon Boy, Woodford Gale, 7-1 Cool Russer, 15-2 Take The Bucks	ido, 8-1 Desses
1			onk, 12-1 Resemptio Devict's Way, 14-1 Morrison, Westerly Cale, 16	

Today's card has been framed with stamina in mind and Cool Russer showed he was well up in that department by leading three out and keeping up the galop to beat Mr Cotton Socks over two and a half miles on soft gound at Worcester in November. He had metters in hand when the challenging What's Your Story crashed through the wing at the last and is alway to be even better suited by three miles. The What's Your Story grad runs Baltywe Boy, saying on when runner-up to Bucket Of Gold at Touriesser (2m5h) last month. While he is another who should be better off at this distance, the form is not quite as good as Cool Rumor's. There are plenty of others that have shown they have the ability to win a tace of this nature. Jerrey Protein's Baymadie, who runs in preference to Newbury winner Termessee Twest, should step up on his second to Denzig Island over three turings less here in November, but that Newbury form, where the fact three were clear of the remainder, looked docent and third-placed WOODSPORD GALE had every chance from three out until after the last. That was a big improvement on his two previous runs over hundles and he must have a good chance if maintaining that progress. MeetBear made it look so easy when making a winning resopearance at Huntington in November, it is doubtful whether the beat engining but she can only improve tor the experience. Queenford Beller's Plumpshe beat anything but she can only improve for the experience. Queenford Bellia's Plumpton van is the better form - on paper at legst - and Tales Tae Backsida's Airstee win was only his second rate back after missing last season. Martin Pho's French import Deads is rather a dark horse, but the stable is reaping the reward for keeping its horses on the go

CALCORDINATE THE INCORP.	SOURCE MOUNT OF CHILD
1.50 ARNOLD HANDICAP CHAS	E (CLASS F) £3,850 added 3m £3,242
I U-1413F THE BUD CLUB (28) (The Bus Chip Grou	pi K Bailey 6 12 0
2 3155-34 IMICERIOSH (19) (CD) (BF) (Robard Hell)	P Webby 14 11 9R Bulley
3 133-4 PENNINE PRIDE (22) (Ms W A Beaumor	nt) M Hammond 9 11 7 Meetain
4 3/535-24 WESTWELL BOY (SIG) (BIF) ID N Yeston)	P Beaumora 10 11 0
5 2POP-21 BEAUREPAIRE (37) (Pel-mel Parners) R	Ainer 8 11 0S McHell
6 3-10-F32 MOBBLE MESSIENCER (NZ) (27) (A E De	
7 35421-5 SPROWSTON BOY (28) (Geoff Whoma N	
8 22P-PP4 SEASAMACHMEE (24) M West R Buck	er 9 10 7
9 0/46P-2 BANNED BAY (21) DAIS A Tombreson) G B	errett 12 10 6
10 4F335-P WOODLANDS POWER (21) (Moodlands (Morcestershore; Lieft P Antchard 6 10 2 R Davis
- 10 decia	
BETTRIC: 5-2 Beaurepaire, 7-2 Puzziae Pride, 4-1 ()	
well Boy, 10-1 Bavard Bay, 16-1 Mweenist, Season	necemile, 20-1 others

Hisbille Measurager was picked up of the floor four fences out at Chehenham lest time yet still came back to lead at the second lest before being unable to withstand Seven Towers' challengs. He was centeinly very unlucky, yet his previous run, besten 12 lengths inso third by Beaurapaire (5th worse in) at Fontwell suggests he was fathered at Chekenham and PERMINE PRIDE may have more scope than most of these. As a young horse Pennishe Pride showed a lot of promise in point-to-points in 1992 but missed 1993-94 and renorly three times lest season, winning at Carliste first time out. On this third and final start he was staying on well in third behind Brave Buccaneer over three miles on ant ground at Carliste and he had been off for 11 months before firishing fourth behind Riszaro over 4mith at Bangor 12 days before Christines, it was most fleely teck of peak threas trafter than the mension trip that caused him to weaken over the last two fences. The Bud Club is a long-striding horse and was out of piece over Falcenteen's tight burs in October following an easy win at Wordsstar on his return. He has won at Ultionater since then and could easily bounce back from a full have lest time. Netweentein keeps his form well for an old horse and may have found the ground as bit too flevy at Ultionater last time. Cut in the ground and long distances bring out the best in him and a promising conneback behind Romany Creak at Laicaster suggests the 14-year-old still has another race in him.

by, which has always been our try in March 1997 at the three-

2.20 KEGWORTH NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,200 added 2m 5f 110yds Penalty Value £3,194
1 0022/-05 ALMANZAR (USA) (20) () C Brachury) N Trivier 6 11 10
2 00P-U10 HI REDUEY (83) (G Hubbard 611 10
3 4640- PLOW (285) (Mrs C.) Durry R Budder 7 11.9
4 30/G- CARELESS FRENER (486) (M R Gibson) N Twiston-Davies 6 11.9
5 S2/8F-6 FOX ON THE JESK (41) (Robert Ogies) A Turnel 9 11 8 PC Carbony
6 000 LEAP IN THE DARK (15) DARS D.J. Monday Mars, L. Status 17115 Mr Richards
7 U451 1992EF (15) (C) (H) \$ Resing) R Curts 4 11 4
8 440-251, ONENS QUEST (33) Conton Racing Club Owners Group) T Etheorigion 6 11 3
R Rounte (7)
9 4040-36 TURRET (189) (BIF) (A/s Tessa Byrne) R Brotherton 5 11.5 L Rarvey
10 Q/5-3 STEY SUNY (44) (R C G Smith) R Dickn 9 11 1
11 OSC-OLP CASSIO'S BOY (24) (Lyonshall Racing) R Extley 5 11 0
12 3520 AL CORPECHE (149 O Bess) K Curmingham-Brown 4 11 0
13 QCO/ SCEPTICAL (670) (Catemont Management Services) / Glover 8 10 12
14 CP-02 RIGHT ANGLE (SQ) (Mass M. E Rowland) Miles M. Rowland 5 10 12
15 0465-F3 DORMSTON BOYO (21) ONIS R (ove) T Wall 6 10 11
16 3050 BUSHTERR (BB) (Mrs J Coathur) S Crastrup 4 10 10
17 BFBOF6- HALE DESIRENG (217) (Mrs V Stocktale) N Twister-Davies 6 10 6
18 66-3030 ITS GRAND (US) (Non & West Racing Cub) J M Stadley 7 10 0
19 PF-0 NEEHERCOTE LAD (19) 6floy Neek M Wildneson 6 10 0
- 19 declared -
Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weighes: its Grand Set 11th, Heithercote Lad Set 10th,
BETTING: 11-2 Careless Farmer, 6-1 For On The Res. 12-2 Owene Ovest, 7-1 FE Hedley, 8-1 Al-
marrow, 10-1 Kreef, 11-1 Turret, 12-1 Halle Derring, Hight Angle, 14-1 How, 16-1 others
CLIFTON HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,300 added 2m

			- 19 declared -	
	, iii	inum veig	ht: 10st. True handicap weighes: its Grand 9st 1,11b, Heithercote Lad 9st 1	OB).
ī	BE	TINE: 11	2 Careless Farmer, 6-1 Fox On The Ren, 13-2 Owene Quest, 7-1 FE	Heddey, 8-1 Al-
	me	mas, 10-1	l Kreef, 11-1 Torret, 12-1 Halle Doming, Right Angle, 14-1 Flow, 16-1	L others
				•
	F 2		CLIFTON HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,300	orlelari 2m
	-12	2.50	Desert Value of 004	duucu 2m
	Ľ		Charly reads popular	•
-	1	U1004-0	SUPREME MASTER (27) (D) (T A Johnsey) Miss C Johnsey 6 12 0	G Hogan (3)
	2		FAIR AND FANCY (19) (0) (F And F Pertnership) Miss M Milligen S 11 8	
	3	21213-0	SYLVAN SAMME (61) (D) U C Fredwill K Morgan 7 11 7	\$ \$
-	4	120-004	BLACKPATCH HELL (26) (D) (J C Brackury) N Tinkler 7 11 7	مراپطاعت البيب
,	5	/0/46-50	RIVER ISLAND (USA) (26) (D) (The White Harts Partnership) J Old 8 11 7,	سطاعدة الي
8	6	33222-0	MARSHTS LAW (33) (D) (Mrs Violet J Harragan) O Brennañ 9 11 4	عددات الر
ŧ	7		LET'S GET LOST (26) (D) Paul Musphy) J A Hans 7 11 4	
1	8		WEEHERY (USA) (19) (The DANA Partnersha) M Berrachugh 7 11 3	
	9		PM A DREAMER (26) (Miss M E Routend) Miss M Routend 6 11 2	
•			NO LIGHT (29) (D) (Allocative Ltd) Nov 1 McNo 9 10 12	
t		32/06-31	HABASHA (41) (Terry Hell) M Pips 6 10 11	D Bridgenter
-	12	10-P	AJDAR (14) (D) (Ms Sue Catt) Mins Gay Kelleway 5 10 10	_i, Repeatit (?)
5	13	0-12150	PISARARE (42) (D) (C F Colquinoun) R Woodhouse 6 10 8D	J Kernengh (5)
ξ	14	02/45 02	GENERAL ROYAC (22) (Startight Resting) D Gendolfo 9 10 8	Bi Dayer
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			LITTLE HOOLIGAN (22) (G F Edwards) G Edwards 5 10 6	
•	17	1,5/42	MASTER OFTHE HOUSE (19) (0) (8F) (Allerton Recing) M Hemmont: 10 1	00DB uily
	18	100551	CHRISTS CLERK (22) (D) (The Tate End Racing Cluts J M Bradley 7 10 0	_Ony Lenis (2)
•			BRIGATUREA MILLS (19) (Alen Marm) M Crapman 5 10 0	
1			SKLISONG (28) (D) (John Whyse) John Whyse 7 10 0	
	2	F06300-	FREE DANCER (257) (Mas Y E Hayward R Brotheron 6 10 0	C Lienellyn
ŀ	22	356800-	CAMBIO (USA) (250) (D) (M C Barls) M Barls 10 10 0	D Signma
•			- 22 declared -	

Affairman weight: 10st. Two hendicap weights: Chris's Gien Set 13b, Biltennie Mits & Selbong Set 12b, Free Dencer & Cambo Set 10b.

BETTINE: 6-1 Rabesha, 7-1 Weekeby, 8-1 General Tonic, Selbong, 10-1 Rackpetch HE, Peir And Fercy, 12-1 Chris's Gien, Let's Set Lost, Patrama, 14-1 Mannif's Lam, Ismocrat George, 16 others FORM GRIDE

Weekeby has been quite fair on the Ret in his day and stepped up considerably on his first two states are an invited by medicine and selbong and stepped up considerably on his first

Weeheby has been quite fair on the Flet in his day and stepped up considerably on his first two starts over hundes by making a race of it with newcorner Serious, another decent Ret horse, at Uroseter 19 days ago. There is probably better to come, but he is only a novice and FARR AND FANCY's greater experience may be too much for hm. Consistent lists season, Far And Fancy won on the Flet after that and is improved this term. He came late for a decisive win over Samare Cove and Once More For Luck at Leicester last month on his return to hunding and was coming again when third to Celloste in better company at Haydock ten days later. He will be hard to best in that sort of form. Habeatha was held until the clear leader fell but out at Banger and in the end best Great's Fair with a bit up her sleeve, with Massier Office House and Christ's Glein fourth and fifth respectively. That was only her second start since April, so the chances are she will improve on it. She may have an edge in fitness over a lot of these and should go close again. Backpatch Hill was left with a bit to do and was never going to get to some decent horses at Dornesser last time. It was at least an improvement on two previous outings and he seems to be coming to hand.

INDIA	CONTROL OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR
added 3m 110yds Pena	
1 1631-11 SEAES OF MAR (36) Queen Blacket	() N Henderson 5 11 12
2 200-321 FOURIESSECRETARY (16) D) (KG)	Apriley) D Nicholson 7 11 12 A Ma
3 /43/193 JACKSON FLINT (28) (Mrs L G Turner)	
4 OLOGO ARRANGE A GAME (15) (A M MCARDA	N Listmoder 9 11 5 # F1
5 3R DARLEYFORDBAY (LG) (Racing Out) in	CB) K Beiley 7 11 5 A Thor
6 OPO-5211 DUNE OF LANCASTER (35) (6F) (Hun	
7 PP/22-8P FACTOR TEX (16) (Premier Crops Limit	ecQ Miss H Kraght 8 12 5 Doc
8 5 FELLOW COURCEMAKK (33) (A D Wa	ratelly K Bailey 9 11.5
9 2125P-0 NY ROSSING (43) (Me, Chesty Eston)	P Beas 7 11 5
10 OV PALM COURT (1,041) (Mess Judy Eats	n) Mrs L Williamson 8 11 5
	um) J Edwards 7 11 5
12 616-PF5 SOLOMAN SPREMOS (USA) (20) (44s	
	cti) O Shervecod 6 11 5
~13 dec	
MEITRIG: 9-4 Fixturesecretary, 5-2 Braes Of Ma Duke of Luncaster, 14-1 My Rosalel, Rivers End,	
FORM	
The fact that Lemon's Mili was drawing clear to	when she came down two our and ruine
change of eventual runner-up Ground Nut. sho	ould not detract from a promising first nur
fences from Bracs Of Mar, even if he was d	oubly lucky to have won at Hereford. The
(2m3f) was almost certainly too sharp for him	and he will come on a lot for the experie
Het automan Danes At Man 1980 a baston bur	

(27m3) was almost certainly too sharp for him and he will come on a lot for the experience. Not only was Brass Of Mar was a better hunder then FOUTHRESSECREARY, but Gold Nicholson's seven-year-old was only half a length in front of Jackson Filest when numer-up to Chellenger Du Luc at Lecester lest month. Faturessecretary means the first when numer on 7th worse terms after pictorig up a penalty for his harrow detect of Airtrask at Southwell. That, however, is only half the story, flooressecretary was numing on again at Laicester over an inadequate thit pagainst a cedial misd, who has since won impressively and won vary cheekly over a more suitable three miles at Southwell. He should have plenty of improvement in him and can follow up, though there is no question that he faces a stiffer last.

Selection: FOUTHRESSECREARY.

3.50 HUCKNALL STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,650 added 2m Penalty Value £1,721 1. MOSHITY WOSS (30) (K Hutsby) () Nicholson 5 11, 12. 1. MORRITY MOSS (30) (K Hutsby) O Nicholson 5 11, 12 Mir F Rubbly (L

1. ST MELLLON DRIVE (28) (St. Mellion Estates Lidy M Pipe 5 11 12 D Ridgignet

1. ST MELLLON DRIVE (28) (St. Mellion Estates Lidy M Pipe 5 11 12 D Ridgignet

1. MOD DAY CHASER (27) (Flamen Roang 9 Mellion 5 11 7 Mir P Scott,

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MINISTE AFFAIR (Connect Roong A Street of 11 9
MILANDS FLYER (AM W BIRCH N TWISTER-Daves 5 1
LULARAMBUE DAVE ON MARKING M Pipe 6 11 5
LUDONYM (K Harrood) M Amen 5 11 5
LUDONYM (K Harrood) M Amen 5 11 5 SOUDONITH IN PRINCIP M. Nation 5 11 5.

THE COCKENTION DAYS J. M. Berley J. Mustine 5 11 5.

UPSTREAM TOBORTO (I. A. Johnsey, Mass. C. Johnsey 6 11

WIMPOLE STREET (St. Clement, Fraud) G. Bulding 5 11 6.

GOOD GOWER GAME (D. R. Obeniu) W. Jarks 5 11 0.

BRICE BRY (Manager) Explaint J. Blee J. W. Week 6 17 0. BEVIER BAY (Rivervood Recing) Mess H Knight 5 11 0 . Sinart Aftroack (Mes M & Throdies) Mes M Revoles AYDISUN (Aydi Raong) G Bravery 4 10 7

Left-lund, sharp course (Equizzack sociace).

London Victoria) adjoins course. ADJROSSPON: All enclosures 51

London Victoria) adjoins course. ADJROSSPON: All enclosures 51

CAR PARK: Club 38: remainder free. BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Erliding (1.00), Golden Punch & WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Talented Ting (1.00), Page-boy (2.30) & Copper Bright (8.30) have been sent 270 miles by P Hastam from Middlehem, North Yorkshire. 1.00 ROLLING STONE HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,700 added 1m 4f (AN) 1.30 BAD PENNY MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,450 added 1m 2f (AW) GOLDEN PUNCH (16) C Cest 590 ... 600423- RMFFLES ROOSTER (16) A Newcombe 4 8 12 ... A Markey 3 | COURSE | REPUIS HOUSE | COURSE | COUR BETTNG: 9-4 Rainbow Top, 7-2 Fresh Frait Daily, 9-2 Errant, 7-1 Raffins Receiver, 8-1 Salifs, Secret Spring, 10-1 Legal Draws, 16-1 others 500

SELECTION OF THE PARTY OF THE P

CY (110) D (Taxian 48 12.

HYPERION 12.40 Tugra 1.10 Kimberley Boy 1.40 Lochna-grain 2.10 Derk Oak 2.40 Irish Gent 3.10 Cum-brian Rhapsody 3.40 Cutthroat Kid

Left-hand, undulating course. Run-in on chase course of 500 vds.
Course is im SW of town near junction of A669 and A177. AD-MISSION: Paddock \$8 (QAPs \$4); Course \$2. CAR PARE: Free. SIS REE

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None. LONG-DESTANCE EUINNERS: Stately Home (1.10), Andrelet (2.10) & Anason Express (3.40) have been sent 291 miles by P Bowen from Havestordwest, Dyfed. SOCIAL CLUB MADES MATTER MEDIN E

12.40 (CLASS F) (DIV I) £2,850 2m 5f 110yd
[1 1- DASY DAYS (294) J H Johnson 6 11 4
2 Of DEERITS DELIGHT (1,777) T Etheringon 9 11 4 1 1994
3 0- GAME PORT (402) D Lemb 7 11 4
4 Q/080-80 HIGH PERHOWE (15) J Quien 8 11.4
5 POSPLF MY GOINTY (17) Dodds 7 11 4 B Handle (1
6 60-400 RASCALLY (27) Mags L States 6 11 4 R Second
7 0-55 SILVER PENNY (15) N Chamberlain 6 11 4
8 000/6-2 TUGRA (2011) Mas S Bramel 8 11 4
9 P WERSHOEY DOTCH (23) Mrs M Reveloy 5 11 4 P Mary
10 545 RUEY ROCK (27) B Hussy 4 10 5 O Peer
- 10 declared -
BETTING 9-4 Tugos, 11-4 Datoy Days, 8-1 Rescally, Ruby Rock, 10-1 Whitele

Ditch, 14-1 Derry's Dellate, 16-1 other

1 10 CORNER SHOP SELLING HANDICAP HUR
DLE (CLASS 6) £2,500 2m 1f 110yds
1 5540-04 STATELY HOME (15) P Roman 5 12 0 R Johnson (1
1 2 37-7237 DEEP DRINK (20) S Clork 13 11 13 Miles & Charle in
3 53-14U5 E00211StON 030 J Hatherton 7 11 13
] 4 SUCCUS- INVENED CNED (250) Mis M Nordal 8 11 5 Mis M Nordal
5 ODIO060 HAUGHTON LAD (15) J Pastes 7 11 3
6 /0/60-00 PIER THERTY NIME (22) Padres 10 11 0
7 5PP02-4 EMERALD VENTURE (20) F Craim 9 10 12
8 FFMF-41 NEWBERLEY BOY (36) Mrs M Reveloy 6 10 11P Mass
9 006 ORCHEDAPSAR (47) J Duint 4 10 8
10 0-53003 WHITEGOTESPHINCESS (20) B EBson 5 10 7 B Marding (3
11 OPSS- DRUMOONNA (249) P Beautions 6 10 4
12 00/0P-P3 PERCY PT (17) H. Alegander 7 10 0
13 600 0025t DEELYMA (36) J Hoston 4 10 0
14 000-000 TRIMESES (15) W Smith 11 10 0
15 APROP-0 THOMAS RAND (38) M Dods 7 10 0
- 15 declared -
Minimum weight: 10st. True handkap weights: Therais Set 12th, Thomas Ran
9x 6b.
BETTENC: 5-2 Numberlay Boy, 5-1 Stately Russi, 6-1 Exclusion, 7-1 Or
chickerna, 8-1 Emerald Vectors, 12-1 Deep Deep, 14-1 others
140 SEDGEFIELD CRICKET CLIB NOVICE
CHASE (CLASS E) £4.500 added 2m 1
I VIIAGE (VLAGS E) 24,500 80000 211 J

	L40	SEDGEFIELD CHASE (CLASS	Cricket S e) £4,50	CLUB 10 adds	NOVIC 2m 2
2	8045-15 21232-2	CLIVINE (26) T Tale 6 DEVILLY (37) G M Mo LOCHMAGNAM (26) M BMCCONNCHE (20) M	art 6 11 2 As M Reacky 8	11 2	J Crebys. P Nort

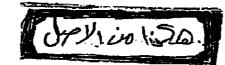
3.40 CEDDESFELD HALL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 5f 110yds POPO22 SHAWNON GLEN (12) M Smith 10 11 5 ... 13-4 PRIDE OF MAY (50 C Fambust 5 11 3 ... 21-3403 WENVER GEORGE (30) J Hafors 6 11 0 ... 3000P-8 SLERIUSE (33) (5) 6 M Moore 5 10 11 ... - 10 desired Mainum wage: 10st Toe harding wage: Topotherurbrocing 9st 13b, 8ETTM2-5-2 Cattlared Hd, 3-1 Montchim, 6-2 Rye Crowing, 11-2 Pride Of May, 6-1 Shannon Glos, 8-1 Wedner George, 10-1 others

Dwyer inspires

Derrymovle has been well backed with the sponsors now that he wil be nidden by Mark Dwyer in the Ladbroke Hurdle at Leopardstown a week on Saturday. The gelding is now 12-1 co-third favourite - from 16-1 - for a race in which he has finished fourth and second.







Put to a punter locally who had seen his selection make up ground to scamper home in a dog race, it elicited predictable scepticism

commentators who know all the answers offhand and can settle troublesome issues with absolute finality.

Bearing this in mind, close attention is being paid personally to a thought advanced in an educational aid that came my way over the holiday period and has been discareworn bettors. It is that the majority of racehorses, in common with greyhounds, don't quicken.

Put to a punter locally who had seen his selection make up ground to scamper home in a dog race screened from Sunderland, it elicit-

Doubtless there exists in the minds ed what you may think to be pre- bursts of acceleration. To substanof many readers the irritating idea dictable scepticism. "Bollocks," he of pretentious sports columnists or said gruffly. In staggered disbelief he went on to suggest, with great sim-plicity and patience, that no account should be paid to idle rumours.

To many people this may appear to be a trivial theme in days of great sporting upheaval and what passes for progress. But, according to Alan Potts in his book Against The Crowd: cussed since in the company of The method of a modern backer, a great deal of the information published about horseracing is utterly misleading and largely worthless.

This applies especially, Potts insists, to the notion that horses even under the most persistent urging can

tiate his theory, Potts, who claims to turn a healthy profit, offers the example of a human: the Olympic 100 metre champion, Linford Christie. [Christie's] races have produced

similar scenarios, with Christie storming through to overtake his rivals in the final third of the race, to win, usually going away at the finish. If you had to describe in a single word the quality that makes Christie successful, I suspect 'Power' would top the list of answers."

Consider the term "turn of foot", which is used to describe the quality that enables a horse to outpace its rivals in the closing stages and you be persuaded to produce winning have some idea of what Potts, clear-



ly no respecter of reputations, is getting at. With rare exceptions (Shergar, Dancing Brave and Desert Orchid are offered as examples), he considers the notion of such accelas this argument questions seriously the knowledge put forth by trainers, jockeys and racing tipsters; we are on dodgy ground here, but no

Making further use of Christie's career, Potts adds: "Detailed analysis of Christie's running has shown that his victories don't result from acceleration on his part, but from the fact that his ability and training allow him to maintain top speed for longer than his rivals. When he appears to be powering home, he is simply maintaining a level speed whilst his rivals are slowing down."

What struck me before I was half-way through digesting this was that

Some years ago, when preparing an article on a remarkably successful canine, Balleyregan Bob, I consulted a man who has spent many years around dog tracks without suffering any great anguish. "Dogs run at even pace," he said. "Don't

let anyone tell you otherwise." Well, that is more or less what Potts believes about racehorses. "The quality we are seeking will be demonstrated over the final two furlongs of a race, whatever the distance." he writes. "It is in this part of most races that the average speed will increase and the horse with the power will be the one who sustains this increased speed over all,

eration to be nonsense. Especially it should have been fairly obvious. or at least most, of the quarter mile. and will gradually draw away from most of his rivals as they slow down and he maintains his speed... if two or three horses remain together through to the finish, then in all probability they are simply slowing down together, and others will close from behind. They may even he headed by a horse coming from

That none of this was advertised widely on the publication of Potts' book last year is understandable. You see, he does not appear to go much on most of the people who are professionally involved in racing. Thinks they are not to be trusted. Not with the truth anyway.



Realism rules Docherty's fantasy

tested football folks' sense of humour as few clubs can. Even the most humble of aspirations have proved wildly extravagant and the consequences devastating.

Whole regimes, not merely managers, have "died" on the Spotland stage, Tommy Cannon, never to be forgotten in these parts as "that comedian of a chairman", arrived with his panto and television countenance only to depart with a scowl and the derision of the locals beating his eardrums.

Financial crises have pushed the club to the brink of extinction, and well-intentioned endeavours have not always been enough. In 1939, a "shilling fund" to help pay the players' wages raised precisely that - a

The present board, led by David Kilpatrick, a former undertaker, have resuscitated the corpse. Yet at the start of this season, there remained scant prospect of Rochdale's rising

years. But then no one had accounted for the influence of their manager. In fact, as the directors concede to their shame, they promoted Mick Docherty from caretaker more by luck than judgement, late in the dis-

array of last season. Negotiations with other candidates became a shambles and. as the club's financial director. Graham Morris, recognised, would have drained not only their coffers but also their morality. New managers tend to have their own back-room staff in tow, which would have meant sacking Docherty and his trusted aide, Jimmy Robson.

Docherty has embarked upon the task with a seemingly boundless inner resilience and a public visage encouraged by his father, Tommy, a manager who had a gag whatever his emotions or club of the day.

My dad always told me that no matter what troubles I might have, the moment you step through the door for work you make sure you have your stick-

Down the generations, Rochdale have had entombed them for 21 the way to Anfield, says Derick Allson

see you are down, you haven't got a chance." Docherty junior

chin off the old Doc, is swaggering through with his smile, and a football

long-lost cheer of Lancashire. the midst of the promotion con-

of those dates they fantasise tie at Liverpool.

on smile, because if the players transformation with meagre re-

The family resolve has been abundant energy. The players reexamined by family and professional traumas, but Mick, a agement ("I treat them the way

The moment you his one-liners, step through the team delivering door, make sure to this corner you have your Rochdale are in Stick-on smile'

test and on Saturday have one to beg, steal or borrow to get a goalkeeper. Now we're well off about in the lower reaches of the in that department. We still have game: an FA Cup third-round to beg, steal, or borrow when it

Docherty, who learned his trade with Burnley and also played for Manchester City and Sunderland, has achieved the

sources - he was allowed to lavish £20,000 on the signing of a goalkeeper, Ian Gray - and

spond to his brand of man man-I liked to be treated") and his demands for constructive

football. "What you learn above all else at our level is that you just have to get on with it," Docherty said. "Last season we had

Docherty enthused. comes to training because we this tie means much more bedon't have our own training ground, and as we share Spotland sides. "These lads may never get another chance to play against with Rochdale Hornets rugby league club, we can't use that. a team like that in a stadium like that," he said. "It's light years

"We get use of an all-weath- from our world. And for me it's strictions on foreign players. otten, dut even that can be iced over. One or two schools lend us their gyms and sometimes we'll go upstairs in the stand and organise some circuit training. You just have to improvise

That ethic extends, in the manager's case, to organising the laundering of the kit with the local infirmary and taking over the responsibilities of MC at a fund-raising dinner for the club's centre of excellence.

Money is a subject never far from the consciousness of Rochdale. If necessary, they would sell a player - perhaps the redoubtable central defender, Paul Butler, or the midfield orchestrator, Jason Peake - but the trip to Anfield fends off immediate pressures. "It will make us at least £100,000, even up to £125,000.

1995

1994/95

1994/95

1994/95...

For Docherty and his players.

Roy Evans. It's an unbelievable experience for all of us. The excitement is difficult to explain to anyone who doesn't know the Third Division.

"I watched Liverpool on television beat Manchester United the other week and wanted to switch off after 10 minutes. But, as Alex Ferruson admitted. his team were very poor on the day and if we play the same way, relative to our ability, we'll get exploited tenfold.

We're going to try and win, but if we went out there intent on all-out attack, they'd murder us, so we've got to be realistic. The longer the game goes on scoreless, who knows? I went there in 1981 with Sunderland and we had to win to guarantee staying up. We won 1-0."

Omens being the pillars of football optimism, Docherty might also consider this; his father capped his contribution to Manchester United's cause by winning the FA Cup in 1977.

The opposition in the final? Liverpool of course.

<u>lest series results since 1994/95 season</u>

INDIA

PAKISTAN

NEW ZEALAND

WEST INDIES

AUSTRÁLIA

SRI-LANKA

MEST INDIES

PAKISTAN

ENGLAND

sri lanka

AUSTRALIA

PAKISTAN

NEW ZEALAND

SRI LANKA

ALISTRALIA

PAKISTAN

ENGLAND

WEST INDIES

NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND

SOUTH AFRICA

ZIMBABWE

AUSTRALIA

ZIMBABWE

PAKISTAN

SRI LANKA

Todd brings in Porterfield as **Bolton No 2**

Football

Colin Todd's first decision in sole charge of Bolton yesterday was to appoint Ian Porterfield, the former Chelsea, Aberdeen and Sheffield United manager, as his assistant.

Porterfield, who has been a free agent since leaving Zambia, where he was the national team manager, joined the Premier League's basement team following the dismissal of their joint-manager, Roy McFarland.

Tuesday's decision to appease Bolton fans by splitting the pairing took the players by surprise - recent signing Scott Sellars heard about it on television - and was met with mixed reactions. The centre-half Alan Stubbs said: "I don't think two managers work. You never really know who the boss is." The striker John McGinlay added: Roy McFarland was a really nice guy, maybe too nice."

Todd and Porterfield are old friends, having been players together at Sunderland, where Porterfield is remembered for scoring the winner in the 1973

Saturday's trip to Bradford in the FA Cup, which yesterday befall in line with the Bosman judgement sweeping away re-

down this summer after 15 years as FA chairman. In his annual letter to FA members, Sir Bert also reiterated his support for the England coach. Terry Venables, dismissing "trial by daily shur", but insisting that "the truth" behind the "damaging a: legations souring the game" must emerge in 1996.

West Ham are to sign the Croatian international Slaven Bilic - subject to work permit clearance, which could take up to a month. The Hammers, who have agreed a £1.2m fee with Karlsruhe for the centre-half, are also giving a trial to the Toulouse striker Philippe Chanlot.

Wimbledon and Everton are to be asked to explain why Joe Royle was reportedly shown the boardroom door at Selhurst Park on Monday. Royle praised the referee. Alan Wilkie, after his Everton side had won 3-2. saying: "He was excellent in a siege situation... it would have been easy for a less experienced referee to have cracked." He is said to have made similar comments in the boardroom.

The Blackburn striker, Alan Shearer, has been cleared of ailegations that he made obscene gestures at Middlesbrough fans on 16 December.

Nigeria have been warned that they risk a six-year suspension from the African Nations' Cup if they go ahead with the decision to withdraw from confirmed that he will step later this month.

Maradona reveals his fight against drugs

Diego Maradona outlined his ing to explain my suffering to the struggle with cocaine addiction in a magazine interview, saying he was speaking out against drugs "for the kids".

'I was, I am and I always will be a drug addict," Maradona said in Gente, in which he discusses his drug problem for the first time. "You can't just get up and say: 'I was an addict'," he said. "You have to wake up and say: 'Today, I'm going to continue my fight against the hell of drugs. Only that way can you fight and try to recover."

The 35-year-old player was arrested in 1991 for drug possession and distribution and sentenced to court-supervised treatment. "I suffered a lot because of drugs, much more than anyone could believe, and I'm go-

Australia

Drawn.

West Indies

Pakistan

Australia

Drawn

Pakistan

Pakistan

South Africa

2-1

young people, said Maradona. who underwent two 15-month playing suspensions, in 1991 and

1994, after positive drug tests. Maradona, who now plays for Boca Juniors in Argentina. said that he began using cocaine in 1982, at the age of 22, while playing in Europe. "My family suffered many painful experi ences," he told the magazine. He related how his daughter. Gianina, once asked him for a glass of water while he was lying on a bed and could not reach it.

"I couldn't get up. I felt like I was stuck to the mattress. And my hand shook," he said. "She asked me: 'Well, Daddy, won't you get me the water?' and I just couldn't do it. The cocaine had numbed me completely."

CRICKET: West Indies in decline while England languish among the international also-rans. Robert Winder reports

Warne and Steve Waugh keep Australians at the summit WINDPENDING ABLE OF TEST CRICKET

For international cricket, 1995 was a year of revolutions. The West Indies, who for two decades have ruled the roost, were finally toppled: soundly beaten at home by Australia, and held to a humiliating draw by - if we are honest - one of cricket's minnow nations: Eng-

But at least one thing is certain: Australia remain the top dogs. They followed their triumph in the Caribbean by humbling Pakistan in the first two Tests of a grudge series inflamed by the bribery allegations between Salim Malik, Tim May and Shane Warne - and they have held on to their top place in the Independent Table of Test Cricket, with the West In-

dies dropping to third. There is not much doubt that Australia deserve their top billing. In Shane Warne they have the world's least playable bowler - in the recent series against Pakistan he took 19 wickets in just two Tests, and was man of the series. Their batting is enviably resourceful: Steve Waugh remains the world's No I by carrying on from where he left off in the West Indies his unbeaten century set up

		Home					Away							Series				
Matc	hes	Р	W	D	_ Լ	Pts	Ave	P	w	Q	L	Pts	Ave	P	w	ī	Bonus	Point
ustralia	46	24	13	6:	. 5	770	32.08	22	9	8	5	1220	55.40	12	7	3	11.66	99.1
ekistan	32	12	· ·5	5	. 2	350	29:17	20	9	4	7	1080	53.00	10	7	3	14.00	96.1
Vest indies	28	12	. 6	3.	3	360	30.00	16	6	6	4	840	52.50	9	. 5	ī	11.11	93.6
iouth Africa	19	10	4	4 .	2	280	28.00	9	3	4	2	460	51.11	6	3	-0	10.00	89.1
ndia	24	. 9	· 5	3 .	-1 -	310	34.44	15	4	6	4	. 640	42.60	7	4	2	11.42	88.4
ingland	39	26	6.	- 8	12	460	17.69	13	4	. 3	6	520	40.00	.9	- 2 .	- 5	4.44	62.1
iri Lanka	25	11	1	6	4	170	15.45	14	3	6	. 5	540	38.51	9	3.	5.	6.66	60.6
lew Zealand	29	13	2	4	7	180	13.85	16	2	7 -	. 7	480	30.00	11	:35°	- 8	1.81	45.6
imbabwe	11	- 8	- 1	. 4	3	130	16.25	3	0.	1	2	40	13.33	4	0	3.	0	29.5

victory, 20 for a nome draw and 0 for a dearest. From the home points total a home average is calculated. Teams get 100 points for an away victory. 40 for an away draw and 0 for an away defeat. From the away points total an away average is calculated. Bonus points (BP) are awarded for series victories. The number of series victories is divided by the number of series played and the total multiplied by 20. The total consists of the home average plus the away average plus the bonus points. Series must consist of at least two games. Drawn matches in which more than a third of the playing hours are washed out (10 or more hours or five or more sessions) are not counted.

Test and set the tone for the whole series. Also, Slater, Taylor and Mark Waugh also figure strongly in anyone's list of top

There was much talk in England this summer about the success of the Australian method: the much vaunted Academy of Cricket, which embarrassed Atherton's team a year ago and bowled out the West Indies for 92 last month. It does seem

Australia's victory in the first to be the case that cricket is, for form. In that period Pakistan was, apart from anything else, the moment at least, an Aus-

Pakistan have had, by any standards, a rotten year: bribe allegations, walk-outs, official enquiries and a couple of heavy defeats Down Under. But their record in recent years remains good enough to secure second place in the table. The rankings sis, so are not easily swayed by temporary bursts or dips of

have won steadily away from home - the sure route to high points in the statistician's formula (see table). In 1992 Pakistan beat England 2-1, then went to New Zealand and won 1-0. They lost 2-0 in the West Indies (as everybody did back then) but bounced back by winning 2-0 in Zimbabwe, 2-1 in are calculated on a four-year ba- New Zealand, 2-0 in Sri Lanka and 2-1 in Zimbabwe again.

no more than revenge for the 1-0 reverse Australia suffered in Pakistan in 1994. Even so, their recovery in the final Test at Sydney, where they beat Australia by 75 runs, was enough to net them 100 points from the series. the same as Australia gained for their two victories.

If the generous premium on away wins helps Pakistan, so too does another feature of our Their recent defeat by Australia arithmetic, the refusal to vary

the award of points according to the strength of the opposition. Pakistan have picked up most of their points against Zimbabwe. New Zealand and Sri Lanka, by no means the heavyweights of international cricket. This obscures some tense cricket politics: it is not an accident that Pakistan have not played host to the stronger nations - it has become an unpopular destination (especially now that South Africa, with its

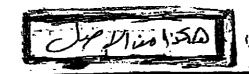
swimming pools, beaches and golf courses, is back in the

South Africa themselves have had an impressive start to their new life in the international cricket circus, good enough to join the top table, which does have a marked two-tier feel. The gaps between the top five countries - Australia, Pakistan, the West Indies and South Africa and India - are quite small, but there is quite a gulf then to land and Zimbabwe. One of the other things the

table reveals is a sharp difference in the number of games played by the various teams. Brian Lara will not be consoled, in the light of his claims that he is exhausted by too much cricket, by the fact that the West Indies have only played 28 Tests in the past four years, not much more than half the number played by Australia (46) or England (39). The problem with any rank-

ing of international results is that it is not a level playing field: it is not as if everyone has played everyone else. The table does, however, put the teams in roughly the order one would expect. Australia will, to judge by the strength of their young teams, take quite a bit of knocking off. But it should be noted that none of this is any sort of guide to the forthcoming World Cup. All the recent charts reveal what everyone knows: that oneday cricket is a different game. Indeed it is pretty much an exact reversal of Test match form - India and England come out top. So, roll on February - and may the worst side win.

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Seles set to revive Grand Slam momentum

John Roberts talks to the joint No 1 in women's tennis, who

Monica Seles, in common with weeks ago I wasn't sure I was gomany, is about to return to work after being laid low with a virus, She is in excellent spirits, however, having journeyed to Aus. tralia, a country where she has experienced nothing but success

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and happiness.

The Australian Open was the setting for the last of Seles's eight Grand Slam triumphs before she was stabbed in the back in Germany in April 1993. Her victory against Steffi Graf extended a perfect record in Melbourne to 21 matches, completing a battrick of Australian Open titles.

She recalled the occasion with particular pleasure, remembering it as the first time she felt comfortable being the world No 1, and expressed delight and relief to be back. "I'm very excited because even about two

ing to be able to make it," said Seles, who will acclimatise for the main event, which starts on 15 January, by competing in Sydney for the first time next week.

Seles's enthusiasm is matched by the Australian Open organisers, who rely heavily on her participation, having lost Graf to injury for the second consecutive year. The Wimbledon champion, who shares the No 1 ranking with Seles, has undergone foot surgery. Seles has had numerous health problems since their epic United

States Open final in September. "I had a great US Open and I wanted to keep continuing that momentum, and it was just frustrating not to be able to finish the year off," Seles said. The

is finally free of injury and preparing for the Australian Open bles after she tore ankle ligaments while endeavouring to

cope with a knee injury which has bothered her since training for her comeback last July.

"I started feeling very weak, too tired to do anything, and I had to go to hospital one time." she said. "They did blood tests and I've been on antibiotics."
None the less, Seles is prepar-

ing to mop her brow, tape her ankles, wear shoes with reinforced soles to protect her knees on the hard courts, and face the challenge of playing for a solid month. "I have never done that before and I'm a little nervous about it, but I'm going to see how it works," she said.

-It will be quite a test I think, fitness-wise and mentally, also, I'm nervous because I'm going from Australia, where s summer, to Japan, where it's going to be cold and it's indoors and on synthetic grass. That will

be a tough adjustment. "I wanted to try it because a lot of times in the past I would play one week and then have one week off and then play one week, and it would never give me enough time to work on anything. So let's just try this and see how it goes. My dad is not in too big agreement with it, but I'll try it for one time and if it doesn't work, I will readjust my schedule."

Keen to sharpen her match fitness, the 22-year-old Seles has two particular goals in mind: Wimbledon - "the one Grand Slam I haven't done well in" and making her debut at the Olympics, in which she hopes to represent the United States. "I can't wait for the opening-day

letes and being in the stands and cheering for them." Her thoughts are stretching four years beyond Allanta, how-ever. "Hopefully, while I'm in Sydney I'll be able to see some of the sights." she said. "They're preparing for the next summer

ceremonies," she said. "That's

the main thing, just being there

Olympics. I'm looking forward very much to both of them."

Having won \$7.8m (£5.2m) in official prize-money alone, in spite of being out of the game for 27 months after the stabbing, Seles can afford to adopt a Corinthian approach. In expressing opposition to the Australian Open's decision to abandon equal prize-money, except in the case of the singles champions, she said: "I do hope that they'll change that, because I don't think it's fair. But I would still play tennis, even if there would be no prize-money at all."

and watching a few other ath-She was asked if she took a greater interest in her financial affairs than Graf, whose father/manager, Peter, is accused of evading tax on his daughter's carnings. Seles explained that her finances are handled by her

agents. "I do my expenses, and those things are my worry, "she said. "But when you put your signature on tax returns, you have to know what you're signing, all of us, not just an athlete. I think after 18 you have to know what's going on for later on in your life, after you stop

playing tennis.

She added that she began to learn about travel arrangements from the age of nine, and there is evidence to suggest that she also kept track of her income from an early age.

Shortly after turning professional at the age of 15 in 1989, Seles visited a tournament office and thanked the organisers. When she did not leave, she was asked if she was waiting for her father. "No," she said, "I'm waiting for my cheque."

Saints in crisis as **Joynt is** ruled out

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

St Helens' key forward, Chris Joynt, has lost his battle for fitness for tonight's delayed Regal Trophy semi-final against Warrington. Joynt's shoulder injury has forced him to join Paul Newlove and Anthony Sullivan on the sidelines, although both he and Newlove should be fit for the final on 13 January if Saints can overcome their neighbours.

Better news for their coach, Eric Hughes, is that Joey Hayes, Keiron Cunningham and Apollo Perelini have all been passed fit. If the delay caused by the weekend's frost has helped Saints recall some of their injured players, it has done nothing for Warrington. Dave King is definitely out after breaking a bone in his hand and Paul Sculthorpe compounds a crisis in the loose-forward position after injuring his hip, also against Wigan on New Year's Day. With Mike Wainwright al-

ready ruled out and Kelly Shelford still recovering from a chest infection. Wire have problems at the back of the scrum. The only certain starter in the back row, in fact, is the newly appointed club captain, Paul Cullen, whose leadership qualities could be badly needed.

Another injury hit club, Halifax, have their newcomer from Auckland, Martin Moana, making his debut in their league match against Oldham tonight.

Salford, who go to Widnes tonight and need just two wins from four remaining matches to clinch the First Division title, will be without Richard Webster, for the rest of the season. Webster has broken his

Cobner is Welsh favourite

Rugby Union

Terry Cobner, the former Wales flanker and captain, is favourite to be named as the Welsh Rugby Union's new director of rug-

80 applications from all over the world for the £50,000-a-year post, with the Australian Dick Marks among those helieved to have made the shortlist.

Cobner, who is on the teaching staff at Oundle College, captained Pontypool for 10

successive seasons. He won 19 caps for Wales, captaining them on their tour to Australia in 1978, and toured

New Zealand with the 1977 Lions. Tony Gray, a former Wales coach, and the Swansea supre-

mo Mike Ruddock are also understood to be in the running. Wales's outside-half Neil Jenkins has a broken collarbone and will miss the international against Italy on Tuesday 16 January and may be absent for the Five Nations' Championship game against England at Twickenham on 3

Stewart's F1 return to be sealed today **Motor racing** and Ferrari. The three-times world drivers' champion, Jackie Stewart, will return to Formula One next year as the head of his son's upgrad-

ed team, which will be backed by Ford and have serious world title ambitions. The new team, to be called Stewart Grand Prix, will be announced at a news conference at the North American International Auto Show in

"It will be good to be back," Stewart said. "I have not missed Formula One but now, with the involvement of Ford, I am in a position where I believe there is a good chance to succeed." Stewart, who won 27 grands prix in 99 races and claimed the

Detroit today.

motor racing for 22 years. However, the multi-millionaire has stayed in touch with the sport through his son, Paul, and his British-based team, Paul Stewart Racing, who have been successful in the junior formulas. Stewart Snr will return in

world championship in 1969,

1971 and 1973, has been out of

1997, fronting a team backed by Ford and with a five-year plan to challenge Williams, Benetton

Until now, the Paul Stewart Racing team have only been involved in the British and European Formula Three and Formula 3,000 series. The step up to Formula One will be massive. Stewart Snr, who retired one short of his century of races in 1973 following the death of his team-mate, François Cevert, has been closely linked with Ford for many years, acting as a test driver and public relations adviser.

Ford powered Michael Schumacher to his first world drivers' championship in 1994 when the German was with Benetton. Renault later replaced Ford at Benetton.

Ford's backing of Stewart Grand Prix. may mean the end for the Swiss team, Sauber, who will lose the American company's engines. However, Ford are determined to take on the front-runners in Formula Oneand they have chosen Stewart as the man to front their challenge.

French driver killed in Sahara minefield

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A Frenchman involved in the Granada-Dakar Rally was killed vesterday when his lorry hit a mine close to the rally route in southern Morocco. Laurent Gueguen, who was driving a support truck for the Citrõen team, was said to have veered from the route cleared through a minefield left after the 1976-89 war in the Western Sahara. The truck caught fire, trapping him inside.

Gueguen's co-drivers, Pascal Loudenot and Vincent Baudin, were injured in the accident. which completely destroyed their Mercedes vehicle. They were reported to be in a satisfactory condition and flown back to Europe by air ambulance.

The accident occurred between Foum el Hassan and Smara, 157 kilometres into the

fifth stage of the 7.600km event. The rest of the rally vehicles passed through the area, patrolled by United Nations troops, without incident.

More than 30 competitors and spectators have been killed in the race's 18-year history.

> TODAY'S NUMBER 100

The number of miles Southend United want imposed as a limit on Christmas and New Year fixtures in the Endsleigh League to prevent excessive travelling by players and supporters.



Desert drama: The Russian rider Nifontov pushes a KTM motorbike off George Jobbe, of Belgium, after a bad fall during the fourth stage of the Granada-Dakar Rally between Er-Rachidia and El Hassan in Morocco yesterday. Jobbe was forced to abandon the race SPORTING DIGEST

Clemence plays down larger goals Football

Ray Clemence yesterday cited Alan Shearer as a glowing example of why the sport's world governing body, Fifa, should not increase the size of the goals to make football more attractive. Clemence, the former England

goalkeeper now the manager of Third Division Barnet, said: "We are always talking about improving techniques - and the goals are big enough if the technique of scoring is good enough." You see great goals being

scored and, just as importantly, goalkeepers making great saves. If you make the goals too big and keepers have a nigh-on impossible job of making those saves, it will take something away from it."

Fifa is considering lengthening the goals by the diameter of two balls, around 50 centimetres. and increasing the height by the

diameter of one ball. However, a Fifa spokesman, Keith Cooper, warned: "Two major considerations may be overwhelming - firstly that the whole cost of the exercise makes it prohibitive, and secondly you would have to see how teams react in any experiment."

Kerly joins Richmond's cause

Sean Kerly, a member of Britain's Olympic gold medal team in Seoul, and a player who has probably come nearer than anyone else in the sport to becoming a household name, will return to the National League when it restarts at the end of the month - in Richmond's colours, writes Bill Colwill.

The prolific goalscorer, 36 this month, made his last National League appearance in March 1993 for Canterbury, where his nine goals helped to fend off relegation. Richmond are struggling just one place off the bottom of has signed for Teddington.

the Second Division, and Kerly will team up with his fellow gold medallist, Steve Batchelor, "Delighted to be back," said Kerly yesterday, adding. It's great fun to be playing with Steve again. We are both a bit slower than when we were in Seoul but still have something to offer."

Olton, one place below Richmond, have signed the New Zealander, Hymie Gill, but are unlikely to be able to field South Africa's captain, Wayne Graham, who signed for them at the start of the season, due to business commitments. Nick Conway. the England Under-21 striker.

West Indies claim first victory

The West Indies finally got off the mark in the World Series with a 70-run victory over Sri Lanka in Hobart, Tasmania. while Muttiah Muralitharan survived an examination of his controversial howling technique. Richie Richardson's side

recorded their first win in five matches since the limited-overs series started last month, after dismissing Sri Lanka for 124. Muralitharan, playing his first game since being no-balled sev-

month's second Test against Australia, claimed 2 for 46 as the West Indies scored 194 after being sent in to bat. Both sides now have two points from their one victory each, although they are well behind the leaders. Australia. Shivnarine Chanderpaul an-

chored the innings with 77 before the West Indies lost their last seven wickets for 33 runs. Tight bowling and smart fielding enabled them to keep Sri Lanka in check, the fast bowler Outis Gibson finishing with 5 for 42, while two run-outs conen times for throwing during last tributed to Sri Lanka's defeat.

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Basketball DAISMACLURAU
MBAC SAZUR 111 Kdanta 88: New Jersey 81 Ma-vauluer 72: Pursand 101 New York 92: Cone-lant 103 Westergar 100: Housen 106 Memesona 100: User 102 Dales 92: Indiana 102 Derver 87: Philadepta 90 IA Lakers 89: EASTEDIA COMMEMBRANE EASTERN CONFERENCE ATLANTIC DIVISION

CENTRAL DIVISION WESTERN CONFERENCE HIDWEST DIVISION 8 .742 -8 .704 2 9 .700 1½ 17 .433 9¼ 20 .286 13½ 21 .250 14½ 25 .167 17½

PACIFIC DIVISION

Boxing Scott Welch is to defend his World Boxing Organisation Inter-Continental heavy-weight title at Brighton's Metropole Hotel, on 26 January. His opponent is yet to be announced.

Henry Wharton has a change of oppo-nent for his defence of the European super-middleweght title in Halifax on 13 January, Frederic Seillier, of France, is injured and is replaced by a former champion, Vincerizo Nardiello.

CASTLE CLIP (Durban) Third day of four-Name Transma 161 and 191 of Lamber 95no only Name 369 Natal in Northern Transmark by an inengs and 17 runs.

TOUR MATCH (Wangapul, Zim) Second day of three: NZ President's 11 111 and 153 for 5 U. Howel 51r, Zimbabwe 172 (H Olongo 41, R Kennedy 4-22). Drugs in sport

The British Athetic Federation have confirmed a four-year ban on the shot putter Guy Marshall, for drug-taking, Marshall, a member of Hull Springhead Herriers, was tested at an inter-area match in Birmungham last May.

Football

Aston Villa have rearranged their two home Premiership matches postponed over Christmas and the new year when the Villa Park pitch was unplayable. They will meet Liverpool on 31 January and Sheffield Wednesday on 6 March lan Rush marked his return from a cartriage operation by scoring a late winner as Liverpool reserves went top of the Pontins League with a 3-2 win over Derby last night.

Richard Hall, the Southampton defender, has been banned for two matches af-ter passing 21 disciplinary points and will miss the South Coast derby against. Portsmouth in the third round of the FA

Will miss the South Coast Gettly against Porsmouth in the third round of the FA Cup on Sunday.

President AND Prist Division Suspensions: Sendings off: Literative (Science 1989). In match from 6 Jan, 8 Berross (Chesseal 1 metch from 5 Jan; "V Jones (Wimbledon) 2 metches to folios; I Creason (Stoke Coly 1 metch from 6 Jan; S Deals (Littor Town) 1 match from 6 Jan; 20 Deals (Littor Town) 1 match from 6 Jan; 21 President (Man Con) 2 metches from 6 Jan; 1 Brightwell (Man Con) 2 metches from 6 Jan; 8 Dealstand (Man Lon) 2 metches from 6 Jan; 8 Cos (Mandiesbrugh) 2 metches from 6 Jan; 1 Cos (Mandiesbrugh) 2 metches from 6 Jan; 2 Dealstand (Man Con) 2 metches from 6 Jan; 3 V Jones (Wimbledon) 2 metches from 6 Jan; 9 V Jones (Wimbledon) 2 metches from 6 Jan; 9 V Jones (Memberdon) 2 metches from 6 Jan; 9 V Jones (Bettly 2 metches from 6 Jan; 9 V Jones (Bettly 2 metches from 6 Jan; 9 V Jones (Bettly 2 metches from 10 Jan; 9 Teggs of (Bottle) 2 metches from 10 Jan; 9 Teggs of (Bottle) 2 metches from 10 Jan; 9 Teggs of (Bottle) 2 metches from 10 Jan; 9 Teggs of (Bottle) 2 metches from 10 Jan; 9 Teggs of (Bottle) 2 metches from 10 Jan; 9 Teggs of (Bottle) 2 metches from 10 Jan; 9 Teggs of (Bottle) 2 metches from 6 Jan; 10 Teggs of (Bottle) 2 metches from 10 Jan; 9 Teggs of (Bottle) 2 metches from 10 Jan; 9 Teggs of (Bottle) 2 metches from 6 Jan. 10 Jan; 9 Teggs of (Bottle) 2 metches from 10 Jan; 9 Teggs of (Bottle) 2 metches from 10 Jan; 9 Teggs of (Bottle) 2 metches from 10 Jan; 9 Teggs of (Bottle) 2 metches from 10 Jan; 9 Teggs of (Bottle) 2 metches from 10 Jan; 9 Teggs of (Bottle) 2 metches from 10 Jan; 9 Teggs of (Bottle) 2 metches from 10 Jan; 9 Teggs of (Bottle) 2 metches from 10 Jan; 9 Teggs of (Bottle) 2 metches from 10 Jan; 9 Teggs of (Bottle) 2 metches from 10 Jan; 9 Teggs of (Bottle) 2 metches from 10 Jan; 9 Teggs of (Bottle) 2 metches from 10 Jan; 9 Teggs of (Bottle) 2 metches from 10 Jan; 9 Teggs of (Bottle) 2 metches from 10 Jan; 9 Teggs of (Bottle) 2 metches from 10 Jan; 9 Teggs of (Bottle) 2 metches from 10

Wingste and Frichley / Caption 0. Unified Sussess County League First Obtained Burgess Hill 5 Three Briges 3; Horstam Yukida 2 Hessoos 2; Largery 1 Eastbourse Town 0; Pagners 1 Arunda 2; Storcham 5 Regimer 0; Was 3 Portified 2; Javason Bestern League Promiter Divisions Toptice 2; Howston 10; Langue of Waldes Fort 2 Newston 1; FA Youth Cop. Third round: Arsered 3 Windledon 4, Post-time League First Divisions: Nottinghem Forest 2; Brinnigham 2; Deby 2; Luceptod 3; Shelfield Utd 5 Oktaen 1; Shelfield Watresday 0 Botton 2, Section Divisions Country 2; Huddersfield 2; Cambry Utsten 1; Shelfield Watresday 0 Botton 2, Section Divisions Country 2; Huddersfield 2; Cambry 0; Leicestor 0; Manchester Cay 0 Blackpool 1. Third Divisions Bury 0 Scarthorpe 1.

Ice hockey NELL Crucago 5 Boston 2: Calgary 10 Tampa 0.

BRITISH LEAGUE Premier Division: Busingstoke 5
Study 4: Humberside 8 Shefferd 3. First Division:
Bington 4 Pasisly 21: Mandesser 8 Lefton 4: Nur-rayfield 3 Dumities 8; Solihull 6 Chelmsford 4.

Motor racing Jean-Pierre Jabouille, the former grand prix driver who developed a Formula One engine for Paugeot, has reached the end of his contract and Peugeot have said

that it will not be renewed.

North Korea has confirmed it will take part in Atlanta this summer, completing a full line-up of 197 countries. Peking, which lost out to Sydney in the bidding to host the 2000 Olympics, look unlikely to vie for the 2004 Games, with the deadline on 10 January and as yet no Chinese city has applied to bid.

POOLS
BRITTENS: Treble chance: 24pts £114.50, 23
£4.05, 22 £0.60. Four draws, £3.35, Eight
homes £21.05. Five aways £125.30.
ZETTERS: Treble chance: 24pts £244.95, 23
£5.50, 22 £0.50. Easy dis £42.00. Four draws
£7.10. Eight hostes £3.00. Four aways
£101.60. Gools glader (pad on 50 gools)
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£171.130. Lucky numbers: £2 8 31 55
£12.297.70, 23 £78.80, 22 £5.55, 21 £2.35 four
drawends only). Four draws £5.70, £1 bennes
£23.15. Five aways (paid on four) £66.05.
Vernors will announce their dividends inday

Rugby Union Gloucester have signed the former Mid-lands Under 21 scrum-half, Charle Mulraine, from Moseley. Mulraine, 22, is a

former England Under-19 cnoketer who had two years on Warwickshire's staff.

LEVERPOOL VICTORIA CHARITY CHALLENGE (Birm) First round: D Morgan (Mail) bt I Griffiths (Mail) 5-3; P Ebdon (Eng) bt I Drago (Maita) 5-3.

CATAR OPEN MEN'S TOURDMAMENT (Doha) Second noting: 7 Muster (Aut) bit A Gaudeno (t) 6-3 6-3: A Vornee Romit bit Nich Seet 7: 6 6-7 M Losson (See) bit 1 Tarango (LS) 6-4 6-7 6-3: P Konta (C) Rep bit M Such (Gerl 6-3 6-4. M Lasson (See) bt J Tarango (US) 6-4 6-7 6-3: P Korta (Cz Rep) bt M Stoch (Gen 6-3 6-4; AUSTRALIAN HARDCOURT CHAMPIONISHEPS (Adehidde) Singles, second round: G Ruscela (CS) to Sooth Drope (Aus) 6-3 6-2; Y Kalehakov (Rus) bt M Woodhorte (Aus) 6-4 4-6 1: J France (Arg bt V U Steen (Gen 6-4 6-6: L) France (Arg bt C) U Steen (Gen 6-4 3-6 6-1; Droubles, first round (selected): 4t Black (Zom) and G Ruscela's (GB) bt M Jersen (US) 6-4 6-2; ARMAY CLASSIC WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT SINGles, second round: Flacks (Arg) bt J Kruge (SS) 6-3; A Kastreetin (Gen bt Rus) bt J Kruge (SS) 6-3; A Kastreetin (Gen bt Rus) bt J Courtos (Se) 7-5; J Hadrid Decugs (Fr) bt L Courtos (Se) 7-5; S Hadrid (Gen bt S Famina (N) 6-4 6-2; Li Fang (Chrs) bt A Class (Gen 2-6-4 7-6; S Cacc (US) bt J Fands (Gen bt S Famina (N) 6-4 6-2; Li Fang (Chrs) bt A Class (Gen 2-6-4 7-6; S Cacc (US) bt J Fands (Gen be 2-6-2); Rismon (D) tr A Suspens (Depart) 6-3 6-3; Deubles, first round: E Calera (Bell and J Halart-Decugs (Fr) bt M Lintstrom and M Standund (Ss) (SS) (3-6-3); Herbernamen (Can) and K Raddorf (Jac) bt S Fam; and L Golora (It) 7-6-6-3; Herbernamen (Can) and K Raddorf (Jac) bt S Fam; and L Golora (It) 7-6-6-3.

HOPMAN CUP (Porth, Aus) Group A: Crostic

TODAY'S FLXTURES Rugby League

7.30 unless stated REGAL TROPHY Semi-final: St Helens v Vity STONES CENTENARY CHAMPIONSHIP: Haltiax v Oldham. First Division: Featherstone Rovers v Wakefield Tronty, Widnes v Salford;

Keighley Cougars v Rochdale Homets (7.45). Football ICES FOOTBALL LEAGUE Caritims Trophy third round: Epsory & Ewell v Levies (7.30).

Other sports DARTS: Embassy World Championship (Lake side Country Club, Firmley Green). SNOOKER: Liverpool Viscona Chamiy Challerge Uncernacional Contenence Centre, Birminghami

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THE MAN KEEPING THE AUSSIES ON TOP OF THE WORLD

INDEPENDENT table of Test cricket

FIFTH TEST: Early loss of England captain's wicket allows South Africa to capitalise on furious finale by Adams and Richardson

Atherton slip has England on back foot

Cricket

DEREK PRINGLE reports from Cape Town England 153 and 17-1 South Africa 244

It took a last-wicket stand of 73, between the oldest and youngest members of this South African side, to finally take the day and possibly this fifth and final Test match, away from England.

Only a week ago, Dave Richardson had not even kept wicket to Paul Adams, let alone batted with him. Yet together they combined to produce the highest partnership of the match so far to give their side a first-innings lead of 91; a lead that looked even more decisive when they took the prize scalp of Michael Atherton just before the close.

England's knowledge, if any, about Adams' cricketing prowess before this series will

Newlands scoreboard

Fall (cont): 3-79 (Kirsten), 4-125 (Cultinen), Fall: 1-15 (Atherton), 5-125 (Rhodes), 6-144 (MeMittan), 7-154 Souting Dosaid 4-24 (Memittan), 7-154 Souting Dosaid Admittan (Memittan),

know everything about Adams' bowling, they also know about his batting, too, and such a be-lated and unexpected assault from him and Richardson

stunned the fielding side. The bowlers, who no doubt had been quietly applauding themselves for having worked their team back into the game, suddenly seemed helpless as memories of the home side's last stand of 72 in Durban came

flooding back. On a pitch whose vagaries appear to have eased under another day's blazing sunshine, England, apart from the last hour, bowled about as well as could be expected. Devon Malcolm, though, seemed to lack both fire and desire, a by product perhaps of his lack of cricket in the middle. Both he and Angus Fraser have not played a first-class match since the second

almost certainly have been re-stricted to his bowling. But if the tourists believe they now Poor-poor-weather and an even poor-

Yet even they would not have expected the kind of treatment meted out by a teenager, whose off-the-mark shot of five - courtesy of four overthrows following a wild bit of fielding from Dominic Cork - was a run more than his previous highest first-class score of four.

With the second new ball still hard and shiny, it was a moment that seemed to inspire both Adams and Richardson into throwing the bat. Only Peter Martin of the five bowlers England threw at the pair in a des-perate bid to break through managed to escape punishment, and it was Martin who eventually ended Adams' spirited 29, when Graeme Hick held a brilliant one-handed diving catch at second slip.

Until then, England had held the opposition to a lead of manageable proportions, particularly after a sluggish afternoon session that saw South Africa add just 38 for the loss of three wickets in the 25 overs bowled. In that time the odds against England winning dropped from 6-1 at lanch to 9-4 by tea as England's bowlers applied the squeeze.

It was a slow passage of play even by these teams' standards, coming as it did after a standard morning's cricket that saw 65 runs added for the loss of one wicket: that of Gary Kirsten, caught by Atherton at midwicket after he pulled a short ball from Mike Watkinson.

Without Kirsten to act as sheet anchor, Daryll Cullinan, who had played two delightful off-side shots off Cork to bring up his fifty, decided to take to the role himself. It was a mis-



Pointing the way: Allan Donald celebrates the dismissal of Michael Atherton for 10 runs at Newlands yesterday

take and he completely lost his another as Jonty Rhodes played way, a situation that cost him his a loose shot away from his body. That brought in the local bounced to Jack Russell. wonder boy, Jacques Kallis, who, taking his cue from what

As catches go, it was fairly straightforward though one had gone before, remained alloaded with significance as it most entirely strokeless for his took Russell past Alan Knott's record of 24 carches in a series for England. That was against from Martin.

Australia in 1970-71 over a six
If anything. match series which, under Ray

moment to turn a Test match.

then at Newlands yesterday afternoon that moment came

immediately after the fall of

South Africa's penultimate

At that point, they were 171

for 9 and had made an awful hash of a perfect chance to put

the match out of England's

reach. The new local hero,

Paul Adams, came to the wick-

et to join Dave Richardson, and

Mike Atherton promptly

brought back Devon Malcolm

It was an entirely reasonable

move. The 18-year-old Adams

could never, in his ultra-short

career, have faced a bowler as

rapid as Malcolm, and Richard-

son is known to prefer less bouncy opposition. Surely, now,

it would all be over in a few min-

David Ginola is thinking of putting a block on his father's

return to France after the hoi-

to polish off the tail.

wicket

even better than Cork had done Illingworth's captaincy, Engthe previous evening, getting both swing and bounce, and he and won 2-0.

both swing and bounce, and he ball was taken, edging Cork be—However, as we know this not teams will be parted with
Four balls later, he snaffled finished with 3 for 37. But despite hind to give Russell his fourth to be the case, the disparity must Africa taking the spoils. land won 2-0.

having restricted South Africa

to a meagre lead of 20 or 30.

It did not happen quite like that (here comes the key mo-

ment). Adams squirted the ball

wide of gully and set off for his

first run in Test cricket with the

warm applause of his home

crowd echoing pleasantly in his ears. The applause turned into a sustained, jubilant roar

when Dominic Cork, who un-

til then had been (as usual)

England's man of the moment,

picked up the ball and chucked

By the time it clattered into

the metallic advertising hoard-

it for four overthrows.

his later indiscretion in the field, it was Cork who produced the day's most brilliant display of fielding when he ran out Brian McMillan after a one-handed pick-up and throw from cover hit the stumps at the bowler's end.

seven which took 64 balls before The eighth wicket then fell to he played across a straight ball a smart catch by Robin Smith, diving to his left at short leg as If anything, Martin bowled Shaun Pollock aimed to heave Watkinson to leg. Allan Donald followed soon after the new

Young local hero seizes his moment

Robert Winder watches the hot and bothered tourists lose

their way as the hosts enjoy an unlikely last-wicket stand

utes and England could return something like an ovation. thoroughly the momentum of to the dressing room in triumph Adams had begun his Test the game had swung. Yet earli-

match batting career with a

five, and in an instant the at-

mosphere changed. It was like

someone unspringing a trap. The next four overs went for 26

runs, with the crowd oleing

every one of them. Three quar-

ters of an hour later, with the

score having advanced merrily

to 240, we saw Peter Martin, an

away swing bowler, aiming a new ball at a side nine wickets

down, at last find the outside

edge of Richardson's bat. Phew! The ball flew at a lovely

height to second slip, and... and

there was nobody there. The

crowd hugged themselves with

catch of the innings and his 27th of the series, one behind the world record held by Australia's Rod Marsh, set against England in 1982/83. To have a chance of beating it, Russell will be hoping his team can pibvide enough

runs for the bowlers to work with. Considering Richardson, his counterpart in this series, has only taken seven catches, it would seem to suggest England are dominating the bowling.

er, Cork, Martin and Fraser had

subdued the crowd with straight,

nippy, patient bowling. There were only two bursts of New-

lands noise worth shouting

about. The first was the usual in-

comprehensible hysteria that

accompanies Jonty Rhodes to

the wicket (it must simply be be-

cause he is called Jonty - if he was Frank Rhodes it would

never catch on). The second was

the shout of relief that came

when Brian McMillan (anoth-

er local boy, Cape Town is home of the big Mac) hoicked Fraser

for four shortly before tea. He

nearly took short-leg's head off

that - and linked well with Les

which made it extra special.

Photograph: Mike Hewitt/Allsport have come about through the home side's technical defi-

sesses the best technique on either side. However, after a trying time in the field Atherdelivery from Donald. So far he is the man who has kept England in this series. Unless a suc 'cessor comes forward these

This followed a period of

English supremacy that had re-duced the crowd to a bored slow

handdap. Even the Mexican

wave petered out into a Mexi-

can ripple. Between lunch and

tea South Africa scored 38 for

the loss of three wickets, a trib-

ute to England's impressive ac-curacy and their own reluctance

to play an aggressive shot. All of this dissolved in a flash,

as Adams went on to cement his

place in folklore. When Fras-

er came back to staunch the

flow, Adams drove him like a No 3. Jack Russell set a new

wicket-keeping record for England with his 27th dismissal of

the series, but no one really no-

ticed. Not for the first time (and

probably not for the last), it was

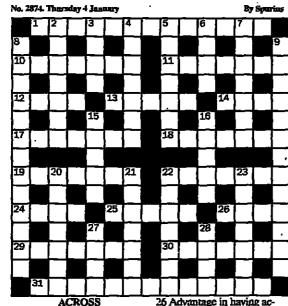
Adams who stole the lime-

light, the thunder - indeed,

everything that was going.

44 (Adams). 10g: Cork 25-6-60-3 (nb.1) (8-4-11.2). 10g: Cork 25-60-3 (nb.1) (8-4-11.2). 10g: Cork 25-60-3

24-14-0). Progress (seecond dray): 50: 101 min, 23.3 overs, 100: 200 mar, 44.2 overs, Lanch: 109-3 (Cultima 153, Roddes 5); 47 overs, Tea: 47-6 (Pails 7, Roddes 5); 47 overs, 150: 332 mars, 72.1 overs; New ball: 84 overs, 156-8, 200: 416 mar, 90.5 overs, immigrational: 54-3pm.
Callinan's 50: 157 min, 113 balls, 7 fours, 150: 30: 100 mar.



1 Situations in which people overlook things? (7, 6) 10 It's necessary to bow, mov-ing forward and back with-

out slipping (7) 11 Moulded, as it were, after fateful step's taken? (3-4) 12 Eat out in the most extrava-

gant clubs (4) 13 Gas found on old ship is ni-

Etruscan, found in tombs

18 Big task, turning out lug-

22 Church member isn't excit-

25 Sweet having cherry at each

ed by royalty (7)

end? (5)

gage items (7) 19 Dance in which poteen's drunk? (3-4)

gins? (4) 29 Politician gains half of Australian state - one of the first out there? (7)

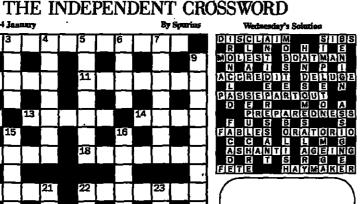
count-book without mar-

31 Choose daring garment

with hint of orange in - it's very attractive (13) DOWN Section of heart reveals

type of acid's been put in drink (7) Political activist translated part of Bible (4) Motorised vehicles in Sark got sequestered (2-5) Curious jumping seen when

rugby forwards run around field (7) Priest turning up with a bit of Xmas decoration, seasoual (4)



7 An inspirational piece of piping? (7) Government department

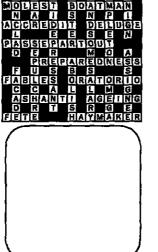
16 Gimmick to restrict devel-

cal dressing (7)
22 Mother intrinsically poetic?

Just a little (7) 23 Young swimmer in story fi-

28 Support introduction of gambling game (4)

If it is true that it only takes a



shows alien an act of kindness (7, 6) Soldier's baton's silver, we

30 Strip? That's about right, you'll finish with nothing on (7) hear (5, 8) 15 Raised from the outset a vociferous cheer (5)

opment (5)
20 Everlasting tree flourishing
on North American lake (7) 21 Salesman turns up, intro-ducing the ultimate in surgi-

nally crossed river (7)
27 Metal kitchen item said to come from Somerset? (4)

iday visit which has spurred him to some of his best performances in a Newcastle shirt.

Ginola Snr has spent a fortnight on Tyneside watching his son continue to captivate the St James' faithful, and although, like his team, Ginola was overshadowed by fellow French-man Eric Cantona at Old Trafford last week, the arrival C Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC. I Canada Square. Canary Wisari, London E14 FDL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St. of his father has coincided with the 28-year-old forward striking a rich seam of scoring form. Ginola had not scored in his

Ginola's father fosters scoring spree first nine home games, but vi-tal long-range efforts against Nottingham Forest and Arsenal

ings, the roar had turned into pleasure. It was a sign of how

have helped propel Newcastle seven points clear at the top of the Premiership with a game in hand over Manchester United, their closest rivals. "My father has been here for two weeks and I've scored against both Forest and Arsenal in the home games he's seen," said Ginola. "I think I'll buy him confident."

an apartment in Newcastl Ginola's goal from a 25-yard strike inside the first minute quelled any St James' Park nerves on Tuesday night as New-castle took full advantage of Manchester United's loss at White Hart Lane to edge clos-

er to their first championship in 69 years. "After last week's game,

when we didn't ever get our game going, we were all very up-set at the way we'd played and the result," Ginola said. "It meant we had to beat Arsenal, because a draw wouldn't have been any good for us. But now we have to feel very good, very Newcastle's swagger in victory

was enlivened by the display of Paul Kitson, signed from Derby last season for £2.3m, to play alongside Andy Cole, Although Kitson scored 12 goals before an injury in April, he has failed to win back his place in the starting ime-up. In his first start since

sance to the Arsenal defence the knee injury sustained by Steve Bould being testament to

Ferdinand in attack. However, of perhaps equal importance for the rest of the campaign was the appearance as a third central defender of Philippe Albert. The Belgian had been told he would be out of the side for up to two months after suffering a swollen knee on the eve of the Old Trafford game, and even the Newcastle manager, Kevin Keegan, conceded the precise nature of the injury was something of amystery.

"Philippe's kapee swelled back up last week," Keegan Ginola said.

said. "We thought there was a floating body in it, and we were trying to get him to see the specialist. But the day after the United game, a couple of days after it had been drained, he felt great and I had no hesitation, especially when

he said he felt better than he

had against Forest." Ginola concurred with the manager that Albert's presence in the team could prove the key to title success. "So far he's only played two or three games and that's probably not enough for him to show all his qualities, but for me he's an important player and if he's not 100 per cent that's a blow for us,"

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